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SERVING PALMER, MONSON, BRIMFIELD, HOLLAND & WALES

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ELECTION 2020

Thousands cast in-person ballots



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden.
In Palmer, supporters of Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) and Republican challenger Steven Hall staked out positions at the entrance to St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, where in-person voting was brisk.

By Jonah Snowden and Michael Harrison

REGION — Voters were casting ballots in droves across the nation, the Commonwealth and Hampden County on Election Day 2020.

This has been an unprecedented general election year in which the COVID-19 pandemic drove a record number of early and mail-in ballots being cast. Nationally, it could be a week or longer until the race for U.S. President is decided while paper ballots are still being tallied. At press time, the only local election in this area that appears to have a clear winner is for Register of Probate. Democrat Rosemary Saccomani held a 60% percent advantage over Independent Lori Landers-Carvalho with about 91% of ballots counted.

All voting totals remain unofficial pending certification.

In a rematch of a 2018 race for the Mass. Senate seat that includes Hampden County, incumbent

Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) was leading Sturbridge Republican Steven Hall with nearly 53% of the vote, 39,758 to 36,260 with 84% of results reported from polling precincts. This district includes Brimfield, Holland, Monson, Palmer, and Wales.

Gobi declared victory Wednesday morning.

"I appreciate the support I received and the honor to continue to represent and serve the people of this Senate district," Gobi said. "I was very glad to win by the margin I did considering that the majority of the district voted a 'Red' ticket."

In other races that appear settled pending certification, incumbent U.S. Sen. Edward Markey (D) had a more than 30% advantage over Republican Kevin O'Connor and Democrat Paul Depalo ran unopposed for the Governor Council seat.

Two Massachusetts ballot measures also appeared to be settled: The "Ranked Choice" proposal was apparently rejected 54%



An inside look of Quarry Hill Community School, a polling place for some Monson residents.

to 47% and the "Right to Repair" measure was approved with more than 75% of voters in favor, according to results at press time.

In another uncontested race, incumbent Republican Mass. Rep. Todd Smola is ensured of another term.

Voting was brisk

At polling places across the area, a steady stream of in-person voters were casting ballots Tuesday. Poll workers wiped down voting machines before and after ballots were cast, voters were required to wear medical masks and observe distancing rules, and Plexiglass

barriers separated voters and the poll workers who checked them in.

In Palmer, Gobi met with some supporters outside St. Thomas while making the rounds of the district.

"It's been very steady [since] I've been here," she said about the turnout Tuesday.

"I actually started this morning up in Ashby, so I've been up to the New Hampshire border and making my way down to the Connecticut border, which is where my district is. I've already been through about 12 of my communi-

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MONSON



Courtesy photo
An architect's rendering that accompanied site plans for proposed retail use at 96 Main Street in Monson.

Site plan for 96 Main retail project denied

By Michael Harrison
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MONSON — Whatever retail use was planned for 96 Main Street, it's not happening anytime soon.

The Monson Planning Board voted 4-1 Oct. 20 to reject a site plan submitted by Gary Eucalitto of Garrett Homes. The applicant can appeal the decision in court or start from scratch with a brand new plan, but so far the town's not aware either option is being pursued.

Approval of the proposed 9,100 square-foot retail store was denied because plans clash with lo-

cal bylaws that regulate the height of buildings. That the 40-foot tall building would apparently tower over homes in the historic, predominantly residential area known as Academy Hill, along with other issues, were the main reasons why the applicant was denied, Town Planner Daniel Laroche said.

"The building would be much taller than the surrounding buildings in the neighborhood that was the major concern, but there also were concerns about managing trash disposal and some of the movements

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PALMER

Hearing called to consider uniform tax proposal

By Michael Harrison
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PALMER — Town council will hold a hearing Monday, Nov. 9, to consider whether or not to implement a uniform tax rate for residential, commercial and industrial property. Council also will discuss creating an open space discount and/or exemptions for residential or small commercial uses.

The meeting is scheduled

for 6:45 p.m. and due to state COVID-19 safety mandates, members of the public can not attend in person, but can watch in real time and participate electronically.

According to a presentation prepared by the Town of Palmer Board of Assessors, "The adoption of different tax rates for the different classes of properties does NOT change the total tax levy for the

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VETERANS



American flags adorn the graves of U.S. military veterans in Brimfield Cemetery, where a Wreaths Across America event will be held next month.

Turley Publications photo by Michael Harrison

Honoring those who served, one wreath at a time

By Jonah Snowden
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BRIMFIELD — For the first time, the town's cemetery on Wales Road will be part of Wreaths Across

America, an annual event to honor veterans.

Manda Day, who is serving as the location coordinator for the Town of Brimfield, is organizing and raising awareness for the Dec. 19 wreath-laying ceremony on the graves of those who served and get-



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COMMUNITY

Mobility, health center stage in Master Plan forum

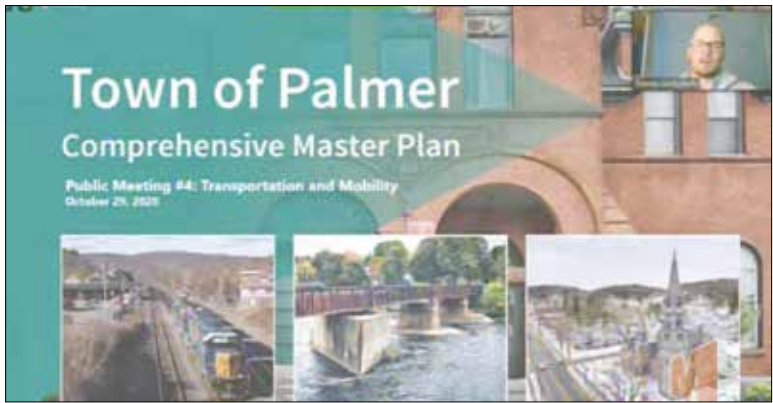
By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — During the Town of Palmer Comprehensive Master Plan public forum on Oct. 29, transportation and mobility, along with other related topics, was the focus of the discussion.

Another round of forums will begin Nov. 19 and continue through the end of January. Results of resident surveys on a range of topics fueled the discussion last week.

After introductions and polling questions were answered, during last week's forum, VHB Project Manager Donny Goris-Kolb led the discussion on the results from the "Baseline Conditions for Transportation and Mobility" responses from Community Survey No. 1.

Results from the survey regarding TAM included over 65% of respondents (312 total) finding regional proximity makes Palmer a great place to live; 40.34% said



Screenshot: Palmer Masterplan Meeting
The fourth annual Palmer Masterplan public meeting was held on Oct. 29 and focused on health, transportation, and mobility.

ease of mobility is not challenging, while 38.87% said finding access to healthy and local food is somewhat challenging.

Other notable responses included 41.81% declaring that making Palmer a place where it's easy to get around town by foot "very important," while a large majority — 63.66% — want the town to de-

velop and promote public transit. More than half of those surveyed, nearly 53%, said improving the town's roadways is the most important transportation need.

Just over 45% said they consider roads in Palmer to be in "fair" condition.

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Palmer Master Plan: Upcoming forums

Recreation, housing, and sustainability are among the topics that will be discussed at upcoming Palmer Master Plan forums. You can participate in real time, or watch an archived video later online via m-pact.tv. Here's the schedule:

Nov. 19: The discussion is on housing. This element will provide a summary of the town's housing stock and will assess the need to supplement that inventory with future housing choices. Key to this chapter is understanding demographic changes, household incomes, and employment.

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Brimfield firefighter remembered by family, community

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

BRIMFIELD — Despite the unfortunate passing of retired Brimfield Fire Department Assistant Chief Thomas Brown on Oct. 24, his memory and legacy will continue to live on through his family and community.

His brother-in-law and lifelong friend, John Sherris, said he knew Brown for “the better part” of his life.

“I grew up here in Brimfield, he grew up in Brimfield,” Sherris said.

“While his folks and my folks didn’t travel in the same social circles, they knew each other and I had met Tom. Through the years, growing up, we would run into each other and sometimes do things together in the very early 80s. I wound up marrying his sister (Marilyn Sherris).”

Sherris said after they became brothers-in-law, their bond continued to grow, partly because they both served in the Brimfield Fire Department. Sherris got Brown into antique truck, tractor, engine, and car shows.

“He would frequently accompany me on the way to an old engine show, or sometimes there would be a fire truck show or things that we would do together,” Sherris said.

“Of course there are family things. Tom wasn’t married [yet] and didn’t have any children, so



Thomas Brown, 67, passed on Oct. 24. He served as a Boy Scouts of America Troop 7 Scoutmaster and was an Assistant Fire Chief in Brimfield.

whenever we had a holiday celebration, he was always with us. It was just the expected thing. He was family.”

As Assistant Fire Chief, Brown worked well with other offices and was “well known around town,” Sherris said. In his role as Scoutmaster for Boy Scouts of America Troop 7, Brown “garnered a great deal” of appreciation.

“Between his activities with the Boy Scouts and with the fire department, he was very well known and respected around town,” Sherris said.

Sherris said it’s going to be a tough holiday season without his

brother-in-law.

“He was always a big part of our Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations,” he said.

“I was actually telling my wife last night, if we ever get past this COVID-19 pandemic and they start having the antique shows, that every time I go out. I’m going to be thinking of him.”

Brown’s sister, Marilyn, had the chance to watch Brown flourish through life and leave an impact in the community he served. As kids, despite not wanting his little sister to tag along with everything he did, Marilyn said he would still stick up for her whenever needed.

She also said she witnessed his early transition into a career of firefighting, which involved Brown joining Brimfield’s junior fire department as a teen.

Between the calling hours and funeral service, Marilyn said many former Scouts and their parents who knew Brown came to pay their respects.

“That was just amazing and so heartwarming to us,” she said.

“It was really wonderful to have all those former Scouts and families come up and tell us of what a difference he made.”

She’ll miss knowing that he was only a phone call away.

“All I had to do was pick up the phone and he would be there to give me a hand, or I would be there to give him a hand,” Marilyn said.

Adventures continue for Pack 164

Palmer Cub Scout Pack 164 has continued the adventure despite the pandemic. With the use of masks, social distancing and a pre-event screening tool supplied by Scouts BSA, the Scouts and families have been able to “Scout On.”

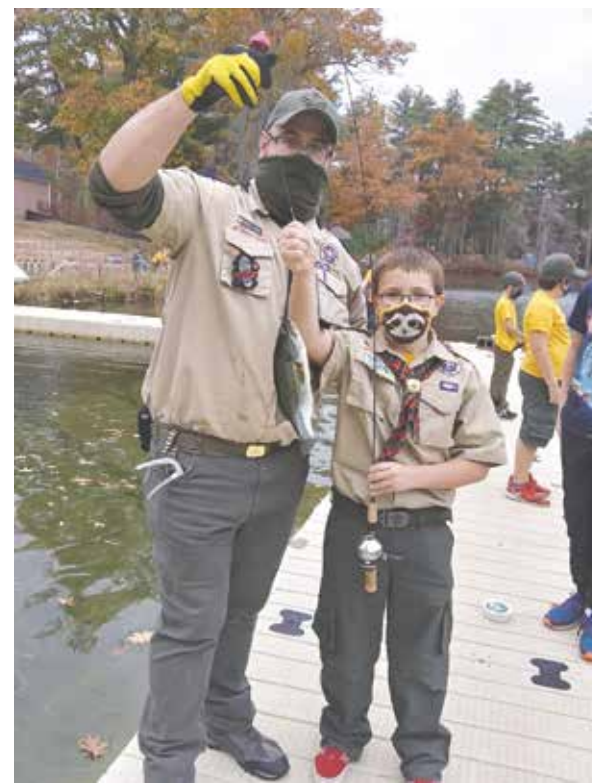
Dens have met to complete requirements toward their next rank. The Lion families are working together at home as they learn the fundamentals of Cub Scouting. The Tiger, Wolf, and Webelos Dens have traveled along local hiking trails, including the Midura Family Conservation Trails and the Grand Trunk Trail and learned about native plants and wildlife.

The Webelos Den 2 Scouts have explored the importance of physical fitness in their lives. As they are getting closer to crossing over to Scouts BSA, the Arrow of Light Dens have started to explore what it is like to be in a Scouts BSA Troop and learn the Patrol method by working with older Scouts.

As a Pack, the Scouts have met in the great outdoors for their monthly Pack meetings. They’ve completed a family scavenger hunt, competed in spooky field day games and caught a total of 25 fish at a Pack fishing derby.

They are looking forward to a post-Thanksgiving Turkey Talk and Trot to learn about local birds, while taking a walk on a local trail. Another important event that the Pack participates in every year is the Scouting for Food drive. This year it will be a drive-through style food drive in the parking lot of Second Congregational Church 10 a.m.-noon on Nov. 7. All donations will be given to local food shares.

Cub Scout Pack 164 is chartered by Second Congregational Church and open to any boys and girls in the community in grades kindergarten through the fifth grade. For more information, email bsarecruiter164@gmail.com.



Fishing is one of the favorite activities for Cub Scouts and pack leaders, including an annual derby.



Exploring the outdoors, such as visits to Midura Family Conservation Trails, is part of the fun for Pack 164.

Courtesy photos

Grant deadline extended to Dec.

The Monson Cultural Council has extended the deadline to apply for community-orientated projects in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences. Local organizations, schools, and individuals have until Dec. 14 to apply.

These grants can support a variety of projects including lectures, workshops, performances in schools, exhibits, and festivals and must take place between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021. Monson priorities can be found online at mass-culture.org/Monson along with the link to the online application.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week's edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

Corrections

The Journal Register will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2 or 3. To request a correction, send information to Editor at mharrison@turley.com, or call 283-8393, extension 236. Corrections may also be requested in writing at: Journal Register, Attn: Editor 24 Water St., Palmer, MA, 01069.

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Who says banks aren't fun?



Courtesy photos
MONSON — For Halloween last week, staff at all Monson Savings branches put their creative best into colorful and fun costumes. Outfits ranged from crayons to barnyard animals.

Disposing of leaves? Here's when you can

Fall (updated) compost leaf schedule off of Old Warren Rd. Palmer

DATES	TIME
Saturday, Nov 7	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 8	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 14	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 15	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 21	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 22	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Nov 28	9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday, Nov 29	9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Town of Palmer
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The Journal Register OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

10K in COVID relief still available for local businesses

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — Local small businesses in need of an economic boost can apply for a portion of more than \$700,000 in COVID-19 relief money that's still available.

The Quabog Valley Community Development Corporation has begun to accept applications for Microenterprise assistance, which is part of the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant COVID-19, last month.

The monetary micro-enterprise assistance, available across Belchertown, Hampden, Hardwick, Ludlow, Palmer and Ware, is awarded to eligible applicants on a first-come basis. Palmer Community Development Director Sarah Szczebak, who has been administering micro-enterprise assistance funds for Palmer, said as of Monday, 13 applications from businesses in Belchertown, Ludlow, Palmer, Ware, and Hampden have been received.

As for a deadline, Szczebak said there is none — if money from the grant is still available.

"I don't think that's going to happen in the near future, since it's \$10,000 per applicant and we have 13 applications," said Szczebak. "It's \$700,000 total, so we'll get there, but it'll be a while before all of the money is spent."

Regarding the importance of businesses applying to grants, Szczebak said this opportunity provided by the QVDC should be taken advantage of, for a variety of reasons.

"I think this funding is important, not just because it will help the businesses, but also the employees and the community in general, by keeping them going during such a difficult time," said Szczebak.

As previously reported, to be considered for financial assistance, businesses must be owned by someone who has a low-to-moderate income and five or fewer employees. Funds awarded will be commensurate with the amount of income lost due to COVID-19.

Eligible businesses must also be for-profit only, located in one of the participating towns, provide goods or services to multiple customers, must be currently in operation and have been established prior to Jan. 1, 2019.

Other qualifications include the potential business currently being in good standing with the state and city/town, have paid all taxes due through Mar. 1, 2020, have active and valid state licenses/registrations and not a party of litigation involving the state or another municipality.

Businesses that are not eligible include real estate rentals/sales businesses, businesses owned by people under the age of 18, businesses that are chains, package stores, weapons/firearms dealers, lobbyists, and cannabis-related businesses.

For more information, contact the QVDC by emailing Loan Program Coordinator Melissa Fales at melissa@qvcdc.org, or call 413-967-3001. You can also visit qvcdc.org to learn more.

Systemic problems behind Soldiers' Home tragedy

Staff testify to poor conditions, understaffing

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE — The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke became a house of horrors this past spring only after years of warnings and complaints were ignored. On Oct. 27 and 29, current and former Soldiers' Home staff members testified before a Special Joint Oversight Committee comprised of state senators and representatives.

A disastrous combination of neglect, mismanagement and arrogance resulted in the deaths of 76 veterans who resided at the facility, according to staff. The tragedy resulted from an outbreak of COVID-19 that spread through the building like wildfire, sickening 94 additional living residents and 81 employees.

"They're people that I used to talk to; people that I spent time with and people I looked at as family. To see them going down with no support and no family to say goodbye to; it's something that I'll remember for the rest of my life," said Certified Nursing Assistant Kwesi Ablordeppey, a 20-year employee at the home.

Ablordeppey recalled moving corpses into a body bag and then into a refrigerated unit placed outside of the home. Just as concerning is the fact that Soldiers' Home staffers were denied personal protective equipment at the onset of the outbreak.

"We didn't have enough PPE on the floor for the staff,"

said Ablordeppey, noting that it had previously been available but mysteriously vanished when needed most.

When Ablordeppey was able to locate PPE, he was scolded and written up by a superior, who questioned the need to don such equipment in front of the veterans. Ablordeppey waved the write-up from the podium at Holyoke Community College during last Tuesday's hearing.

"I got so angry. I said, 'What is going on here?' They knew that there was something going on and they put the masks away," he said.

CNA Andrea Fox, a long-time representative of the Massachusetts Nursing Association, shared similar stories on behalf of her members. Fox noted that many employees chose not to testify at the hearing after feeling bullied and intimidated by the facility's administration.

Fox revealed that staff members were forced to endure traumatic conditions, working countless hours of overtime as COVID-19 ravaged one of western Massachusetts' finest institutions. She recalled her haunting conversation with Bennett Walsh, the home's former superintendent, who is now facing 10 criminal charges and decades in jail if convicted.

"When COVID was first discovered in the Soldiers' Home, I attended a monthly labor management meeting with the former superintendent," said Fox. "I had to pull teeth to learn that there was a supply of the N95 respiratory masks available. It was our belief that they would provide the most protection for staff and residents. I asked [Walsh] several times, 'What are you saving them for?' He refused to dis-

tribute them."

Throughout the hearings staff shared testimony that appeared suitable for a graphic novel. Their stories were far from fictitious, however; employees endured death firsthand on a scale that was unprecedented.

"As healthcare staff, it is expected to have deaths on your watch. However, the magnitude and velocity of deaths was overwhelming," said Fox. "I spoke with a nurse who described her ride in and seeing a huge refrigerated truck at the entrance. Her description and the image of bodies of veterans on carts alone right outside that building made me almost throw up."

Understaffing

Understaffing was, perhaps, the tragedy's greatest driving force. For years, if not decades, employees at the home lobbied and protested in an admirable but unsuccessful effort to add more colleagues.

Paul Barabani served as superintendent from 2011 until his retirement in 2016. While in his position, Barabani observed the harmful effects of understaffing, as he recalled on Oct. 29.

"There's just not enough time to do it all. It works on them, and that's the morale factor," said Barabani. "I told each employee, 'I want you to be motivated and look forward to coming to work to serve the veterans and go home at the end of each day feeling good that you did serve them,' but they couldn't go home feeling good because there wasn't enough staff to allow that care."

Understaffing was often to

SOLDIERS | page 5

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Viewpoints

Planning board denies ‘Dollar General’ plan – for now

Monson residents opposed to a retail store at the derelict property at 96 Main Street were overjoyed when the town planning board recently scuttled the project by denying the applicant’s site plan.

The planning board did not reject the proposal because members don’t favor the concept. The site plan, widely believed to be for a Dollar General, was turned away because the height of the proposed building exceeded what local law allows in the residential community. It’s worthy to note that while the developer didn’t name a prospective tenant for the commercial building it wants to put there, all indications are that it would be a Dollar General. The facade shown in a site plan rendering does resemble the chain store’s favored architecture. Also, Dollar General has said in the past that it is interested in the location. So while it’s assumed, but not confirmed, to be a potential Dollar General site, it is a fair assumption.

In any case, the victory residents opposed to a Dollar General at 96 Main are now savoring could turn sour.

The applicant, Garrett Homes, has two possible courses if it wants to keep pursuing the plan – challenge the planning board ruling in court, or submit a new application with plans that show a conforming height. Considering the town seems to be on solid legal footing for its ruling, the latter option makes more sense. Garrett Homes hasn’t announced what it plans to do – if anything – but developers are not known to meekly walk away from projects that have a high probability of turning a nice profit.

Residents should be on-guard for another proposal. Those who protested the first one need to realize they likely didn’t change any hearts or minds on the planning board and shouldn’t take it for granted that it would be denied again absent any technical grounds.

In the meantime, it would be a good idea to organize a lobbying effort to get the town to take a more proactive approach to the vacant property. Considering the degree of opposition to a Dollar General or anything like it there, perhaps the town would be willing to help guide a lower-impact development that residents would favor.

The prevailing wish is for homes that would blend in with the historic nature of the neighborhood. That would be ideal, but would require re-zoning the property. That’s not unrealistic, but it could mean a lengthy – and expensive – court battle. It could be worth considering alternative commercial uses for the property, something residents would welcome, and actively seeking a business partner aligned with the idea.

Another approach could be the town purchasing the property itself and using it for a neighborhood-friendly facility or amenity. Grant money could be available to help offset the course, especially if it’s for historic preservation. What kind of amenities are we thinking about? A dog park, for example, or a public garden. There are many possibilities. The residents who are strongly against a discount store at 96 Main should start talking and coming up with a short list of ideas they can present the town ahead of any new applications that could be submitted to re-develop the property.

Rather than make a judgement call, a majority of planning board members followed the bylaws put in place to guide them. While not extraordinary, the board should be commended for its professionalism and attention to detail. This time, it made a decision residents favor. The next time, things might not go the way they want.

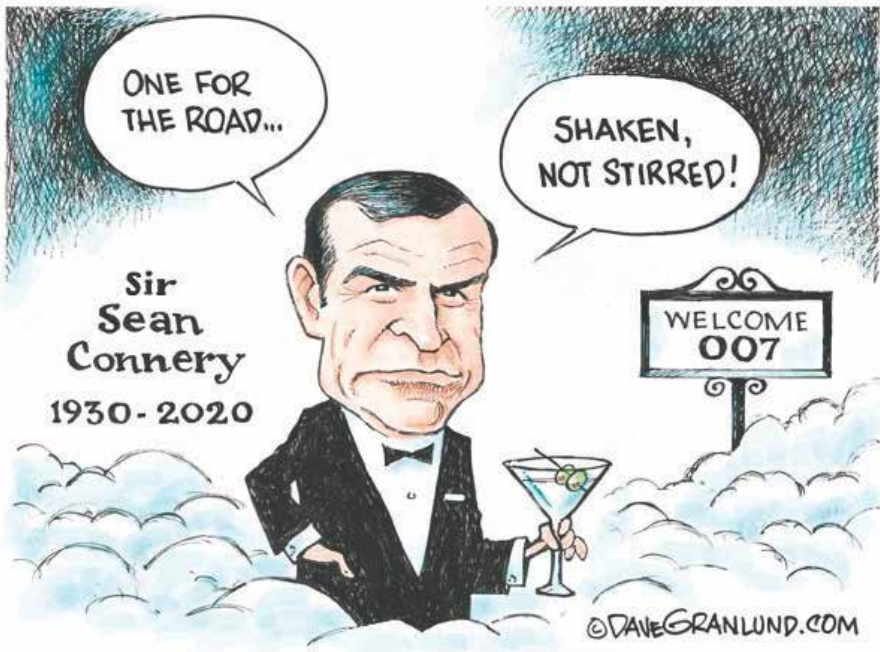
For residents passionately invested in the future of 96 Main Street, offense is indeed the best defense.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

For more information on business coverage for The Journal Register, please email dfarmer@turley.com.



An iconic song and an iconic tree commemorate Veterans Day

As we move closer to Veterans Day, our thoughts turn to the many men and women who serve or have served our country, and how we can best remember and support them.

I think back to when I was a young adult and a mother from town tied yellow ribbons all over Ware to support her son who was serving overseas. I also remember the fad of those little yellow magnetic ribbons that folks put on their bumper as a show of solidarity. Did you ever wonder where “tie a yellow ribbon” came from? Read on to learn a bit of trivia about an iconic song and an iconic tree.

We’ve all heard the 70s song, sung by Tony Orlando and Dawn that popularized the yellow ribbon and made it the folk symbol that it is today. Legend has it that the inspiration for the song did come from a convict, released from prison and on a long bus ride home. His wife was instructed to tie a yellow ribbon around the oak tree in the center of town if she wished to give him a second chance. If he saw it then he knew to get off the bus. Reportedly the tree was covered in yellow ribbons!

In 1981, eight years after the song’s initial release, it rose in popularity once again. The yellow ribbon became a symbol of loyalty and patriotism for the 52 American hostages being held in Iraq. “If you still want me, whoa, tie a yellow ribbon ‘round the ole oak tree.”

I thought it fitting that the oak tree was chosen to bear such an important symbol of our culture. It is a tall, stately tree and its wood is stronger and more durable than that of most trees, yet to me it is humble. At the height of foliage season an oak doesn’t shout “look at me!” like other trees do. It simply waits for the hoopla put on by the maples to pass, and then it delights us with a subtle beauty that is equally appealing.

Here are some oak tree statistics: There are some 450 species of oak. Some of them are evergreen, holding onto their leaves throughout the winter months. These oaks are located in the more southern, warmer regions of our country. Even though our oaks are deciduous, it takes a long time for them to completely defoliate. Sometimes it is the next season’s emerging leaves that finally push the old

ones off. This year it took an October snowfall.

Did you know that oaks get struck by lightning more than any other tree? This is likely due to their height, some topping over 80 feet at maturity.

The oak is a member of the beech or Fagaceae family. One unique feature that the oak has and other members of the family do not is that its nut is carried in a cap. The nut and cap together are called an acorn. Acorns are a valuable food source for wildlife. Wild turkey, deer, larger songbirds and squirrels among others depend on the nut for surviving the winter. One way to tell the difference between species of oak tree is by their acorns. Examine how they wear their “cap.” The cap of the white oak is about one-quarter the size of the oblong shaped nut. The red oak, on the other hand, has a squatty, saucer-like cap covering a more globose shaped nut.

Most oaks tolerate transplanting the best when they are young and small in size. The pin oak is one exception; its shallow, fibrous root system allows it to be transplanted as a larger specimen. For this reason, the pin oak is widely used for home landscaping. It is also highly sought after because of its unique, pyramidal shape: the lowest branches are pendulous, the middle are horizontal and the top are upright.

Did you know that cork is harvested from the bark of a species of oak tree? Yes, the cork oak grows in Spain, Portugal and parts of Northern Africa.

The oak tree can grow to be very old. At the writing of my reference book back in 1983, there was a 400-year-old white oak growing in Maryland by the name of the Wye Oak. It topped off at 95 feet tall, 165 feet wide and eight feet in diameter.

This Veteran’s Day, why not tie a yellow ribbon ‘round your oak tree or better yet, thank a veteran for his or her service.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

Letters to the Editor

Climate change is an existential threat

I read with interest Robert R. Singleton’s letter to the editor suggesting we adapt to climate change. I hope Mr. Singleton is right, that our climate is changing because of the Earth’s magnetic field and that we just have to get used to Gulf Stream critters coming closer to shore.

My fear is that we just may end up adapting the way the dinosaurs did — by becoming extinct. Yes, our earth has gone through many changes and some resulting in great extinctions.

Now if most climate scientists are right, this climate change is due to our spewing of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere treating our skies like an open sewer. The melting at the poles could create extreme rises in sea levels; our planet could heat up drastically due to greater absorption of sunlight due to loss of our polar ice caps’ reflective properties; Tons of methane could be released from the tundra creating a Venus effect on earth; And, our oceans could acidify to the point where our oxygen producing plankton dies off.

It doesn’t help that we’re destroying our forests at alarming rates even here, in Massachusetts, forests crucial to producing oxygen and storing carbon.

We’re already seeing millions flee drought-stricken areas or areas too hot live in anymore. Daily we watch on TV the wildfires burn our forests in California, Siberia and Australia.

I wish I was as confident as Mr. Singleton that all we have to do is adapt. I believe we need to start realizing that if we’re going to save ourselves we’d better start taking care of and being good stewards of this paradise that we were given, and that we’ve abused, if it’s not already too late.

Charlotte Burns,
Palmer

What helps voters decide?

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

Like any American who cares about this country, I have a deep interest in the results of this election. But as a politician (I think one never really retires from that job), I take a professional interest, as well. Not only for policy or partisan concerns, but because I’m always interested in how people make up their minds on how to vote.

This is an occupational hazard, I think. I was on the ballot 34 times over the course of my career and have spent a lot of time thinking about why people vote as they do. To be sure, we each have our own reasons for where we come down: sometimes based on policy preferences, sometimes because projects we care about will be advanced by voting a certain way, sometimes because there’s one issue we care about above all others. Still, I think there’s one key factor that doesn’t get taken as seriously as it should: likability.

We’ve all heard this notion expressed as, “Who’d you rather have a beer with?” Or, as a group of Democratic women who were planning to vote for Ronald Reagan once explained, they liked the unfailingly gracious and courteous way he treated his wife, Nancy.

This is not frivolous. I’d argue, in fact, that “likability” is actually a complex decision. We tend, for instance, to like people who are positive, constructive, and forward-looking, and who enunciate or profess a feeling of hope. The Rev. Jesse Jackson used to have a phrase he used, “Keep hope alive.” Whatever you thought about his politics, that optimistic, forward-looking view appealed to a lot of people.

We also, whether we know it or not, pay attention to authenticity. It’s a favorite word in politics these days, but I think it’s always been the case that we want candidates who are not fake and who give you a sense of a genuine personality undergirding their public persona. We know it intuitively, and it plays a role in whether or not we like someone.

There’s a policy element to all this, as well, in that we like people who have views and values we can relate to. Or, to put it another way, we don’t favor candidates whose values are alien to ours. Nobody fits our likes and dislikes perfectly, but we make judgments on candidates based on whether they more closely align with our values than the other candidate does.

We also judge “likability” by whether or not we think a candidate is going to serve our interests. We evaluate them on whether they hold roughly the same goals and interests we do, and if so, we’re much more likely to support them. Which is also why we want our candidates to be reliable and steady in their views. We want officeholders we can trust, not people who jump all over, saying one thing one day and another the next.

I think Americans also prefer candidates who display a basic sense of honesty and decency, who possess a strong moral compass, and who show compassion for people who are struggling in their lives. This does not mean we always vote for them—political circumstances or straight-on political calculation can get in the way—but I believe that for most Americans, those qualities matter a great deal.

Clearly, a lot goes into whether or not a candidate is likable, and one voter’s gut sense will differ from another’s. But I can tell you that right now, candidates for office all over the country are focused on this question.

Campaigning is a matter of going from one group to another, sometimes small, sometimes large and the question always on your mind is how you appeal to this group or person, and how you make yourself likable to them. In the wake of the election, the winners will be patting themselves on the back for having figured it out. And the losers will be left wondering how they might have behaved differently...and been more likable.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Election letters to the editor welcome

The Journal Register welcomes readers to participate in this year’s election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
**The Journal Register
Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
Palmer MA 01069,**
or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

The Journal Register

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MONSON | from page 1

for deliveries,” Laroche said.

Although it’s been widely speculated that the property, vacant since a tornado devastated two buildings there in 2011, would be used for a Dollar General or similar discount store, no prospective tenant has ever been mentioned on the record during the planning process. Because a site plan created by the applicant’s architect depicts a building that resembles the facade of a typical Dollar General or Dollar Tree, residents opposed to that use organized a campaign against it and staged a rally last June.

Signs with the slogan “Say ‘No’ to a Dollar Store on Main Street in Monson, MA.” popped up across town and many are still standing.

In August, a spokesperson for Dollar General Corp. did say the company was involved in due diligence on the property, according to a published report.

Carolyn Horacek, a resident of the area and one of the organizers of the opposition was worried approval was a fait accompli.

“We were surprised,” by the decision, she said.

“We had absolutely no idea how they were going to vote. We had no clue.”

The site almost inevitably will be considered for redevelopment sooner or later and Horacek is steadfast in what she would like to see happen with it.

“We’re a resident neighborhood,” she said.

“What we want in there is housing. When you come down over the hill from Palmer you don’t want to see retail. You want to see residential. We’re not opposed to everything, but we are specifically opposed to this. It just didn’t fit in at all. What the neighbors want is residential.”

The Planning Board, Horacek said, simply did its job.

“They didn’t take this lightly. They worked hard and did a great job,” she said.

Laroche said it’s not often a plan is denied, especially when it’s for a conforming use. The property is zoned for commercial use and there were businesses there before the tornado tore through them.

Another resident who opposes a Dollar General or similar retail use for the property, Ann Chechile, also said she was surprised the site plan came up for a vote, but she’s happy with the outcome.

“I was hoping and praying they would deny it,” she said. “I’m glad they did their due diligence.”

Chechile said she’s aware the applicant could come back to the town with an amended site plan.

“I know a lot of people think this is the end of it, but I’m prepared to keep fighting it if they do come up with [a new application],” she said.

SOLDIERS | from page 3

blame for pressure ulcers, plaguing veterans who remained in the same position for extended periods of time. Barabani described an administration that often betrayed the trust of employees at the home.

Francisco Urena served as the state’s Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs from 2015 until resigning on June 24, following his complicity in the mismanagement of the outbreak. Barabani did not mince words when recalling unsatisfactory interactions with Urena.

On one occasion, a Soldiers’ Home employee broke down in tears at the end of the work day upon realizing she had not gotten to cutting a veteran’s toenails. After consoling his distraught wife, the employee’s husband, also a veteran, later contacted Urena’s office to inquire about the lack of staffing.

Urena elected not to keep the complaint confidential, instead immediately reporting the employee to the administration at the Soldiers’ Home. The following morning, the unknowing female staff member was called to the office and reprimanded for her husband’s communication.

Barabani continued last Thursday, testifying further against Urena’s lack of concern and consideration regarding understaffing at the home. In November 2018, Barabani arranged a meeting for Soldiers’ Home employees to speak to Urena.

“I brought our staff into our conference room and wanted Secretary Urena to hear directly from the staff what their feelings were. He spent more time looking at his phone, texting and not making eye contact; the people who were in that room were insulted and felt that they weren’t being listened to,” said Barabani.

Barabani’s ties to the Holyoke facility run deep. As a child in the 1950s, he often accompanied his parents to the home, where they volunteered in different capacities. Barabani’s father, a World War II veteran, would take his last breaths at the home in 2016.

When Barabani considered applying for the open superintendent position in 2010, his father shared advice that Barabani did not take.

“I have to be honest with you; he advised me not to apply for the position. He probably knew more than I did about the real goings on,” said Barabani.

The complete hearings from Oct. 20, 22, 27 and 29 can be located at malegislature.gov.

TAX PROPOSAL | from page 1

community; It simply determines the share to be borne by each class. Historically, the Town has not had a split tax rate due to the small percentages of the tax levy with the Commercial, Industrial, and Personal Property classes.”

Whatever town council chooses, it would take effect for fiscal year 2021. In fiscal year 2020, only 115 out of 351 communities in the Commonwealth opted for a split tax rate.

Massachusetts law requires that every five years municipalities must assess all “real property” at 100% fair market value with the assessments certified and audited by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

“Now it is the job of the town council to decide whether a uniform tax rate or a split tax,” said Robert Leroux, a Board of Assessors member.

Leroux said a uniform rate makes sense for Palmer, where most homes are owner-occupied.

“We are not a vacation community like the Cape,” he said.

As far as possible exemptions and discounts, the town assessors’ presentation points out that there are no properties in town classified as “open space.” It goes on to explain that “In Palmer, ‘Open Space’ is currently in Chapter 61 Programs reducing property taxes in exchange for providing important public benefits like clean water, wildlife habitat, rural character, wood products, food, and outdoor recreation.”

Want to participate?

Residents can view the meeting on cable channel 15 or stream it online. Questions can be submitted by emailing them to nparker@townofpalmer.com or texting 413-388-1115. “Answers will be provided in the order in which they were received to the extent possible,” according to a statement from the Board of Assessors.



Turley Publications staff photos by Michael Harrison
At Brimfield Town Hall, like other polling places, Plexiglass barriers were set up to help keep voters and poll workers safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Smola announces small business grant opportunity

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce a new grant program for small businesses under 50 employees. Small businesses with five or fewer employees may qualify for grants, not loans, of up to \$25,000 and businesses with six to 50 employees may qualify for grants up to \$75,000 for assistance with business expenses related to COVID-19. The program is funded at \$50.8 million, which was appropriated through the commonwealth’s supplemental budget for fiscal 2021 as well as the CARES Act of 2020.

The grant application is now available online through the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation

website. Grant funding is intended to help businesses adversely impacted by the pandemic. Preference will be given to small businesses whose owners are women, minorities, veterans, members of other underrepresented groups, who are focused on serving the Gateway Cities of Massachusetts, and those most negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Preference will also be given to applicants that have not been able to receive aid from other federal programs related to COVID-19.

Timeline: Application will be open for three weeks: It opened on Oct. 22 at noon and will close on Nov. 12, at noon.

For additional information please contact Smola at Todd.Smola@ma-house.gov or 617-722-2100.



Poll workers Angie C. (left) and Deb C. Get ready to check in more voters at the Holland Community Center. There was a line to get in when the precinct opened Tuesday morning.

ELECTION | from page 1

ties and there’s not a lot of people holding signs, but there’s a lot of people going in to vote, so it’s a nice thing to see.”

Despite heavy early voting, ballots were cast all day in Monson, according to Town Clerk Mary F. Watson.

“Things have been steady and [going] very well,” Watson said.

“We had 3,174 voters vote by mail and early vote. That’s half of our voters in Monson. It was very busy in the morning and kind of steadied out throughout the day.”

In Brimfield, Town Clerk Robert Sullivan said in-person voting was going well.

In fact, “It’s perfect,” he said.

At around 2 p.m., 625 in-person ballots had been cast.

“At this rate – and of course it’s a difficult comparison because we didn’t have this many people [voting early], it looks like we will see the

largest turnout we’ve had since 2012,” Sullivan said, adding, “In the last eight years the voting population has increased by 150 [people].” Over 1,800 total ballots, including early votes, had been cast by Tuesday afternoon in Brimfield, which has 2,836 registered voters, according to Sullivan.

“It’s very active. We’re having a very good day,” Sullivan said.

The story was much the same in Holland, where Town Clerk Jennifer Mott said at around 2:30 p.m., “so far it’s going very well. We have been steady and nonstop since the second we opened.”

There was a line out the door for the first 90 minutes after the polling site at the Holland Community Center opened Tuesday morning, Mott said.

Nearly 1,000 votes, including early ballots, were cast by Tuesday afternoon. That’s

approximately half of the town’s 2,064 registered voters.

“I would say we’ve had about 600 people come through the door already,” Mott said.

According to results posted by the town late Tuesday night, here’s how Holland voters cast their ballots:

Presidential electors

Biden/Harris 690
Trump/Pence 783
Hawkins/Walker 7
Jorgensen/Cohen 37
Write Ins 9
Blanks 13

Senator in Congress

Shiva 20
Markey 678
O’Connor 800
Write In 1
Blanks 40

Representative in Congress

Shiva 11
Neal 1012
Write Ins 64
Blanks 452

Councillor

DePalo 969
Write In 52
Blanks 518

Senator in General Court

Gobi 655
Hall 837
Write In 1
Blanks 46

Representative in General Court

Smola 1222
Write In 23
Blanks 294

Registrar of Probate

Saccomani 554
Landers-Carvalho 716
Write Ins 9
Blanks 260

Question 1

Yes 1113
No 357
Blanks 69

Question 2

Yes 481
No 955
Blanks 103

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

NOW

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

CUB SCOUT FOOD DRIVE: Cub Scout Pack 164 is holding a drive-through food drive 10 a.m.-noon Nov. 7. Drop off canned goods and non-perishables at Second Congressional Church, 1080 Pleasant Street in Palmer. All donations will go to local residents in need.

ONLINE RAFFLE TO BENEFIT Monson Library

The Friends of the Monson Free Library are holding an on line raffle to benefit library programs and the purchase of museum passes. Get chances to win a microbrew gift case, a hand-knot scarf and more. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 15 for \$10 and must be purchased by Nov. 11. The drawing is Nov. 18. To order tickets or see photos of the prizes, email friends.monsonfreelibrary@gmail.com.

SOON

MASTER PLAN FORUMS

The Palmer Master Plan Steering Committee is holding a series of forums you can participate in on M-PACT channel 15, Facebook Live and Zoom. These will all start at 6:30pm. The schedule is as follows:

Nov. 19: The discussion is on housing. This element will provide a summary of the town's housing stock and will assess the need to supplement that inventory with future housing choices. Key to this chapter is understanding demographic changes, household incomes, and employment.

Dec. 17: The fifth interactive forum focuses on the element of climate adaptation and sustainability. Leveraging the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan, this element will look at the Town's climate projections and vulnerability analysis to comprehensively address future climate change through methods of resiliency.

Jan. 28: The focus is on natural resources, open space and recreation. Referencing the town's certified Open Space and Recreation Plan from 2015, this element will expand upon that plan's contents to address needs in consideration of projected population trends. An important aspect of this element will be weighing the trade-offs between various land uses and competing demands.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Town Planner Linda Leduc at lleduc@townofpalmer.com or 283-2605.

Coat/winter wear drive

The Three Rivers Fire Fighter's Association Ladies Auxiliary will be continuing its annual "Keep Warm Drive" to benefit the Palmer/Monson Family Network through Monday, Nov. 30. They will be accepting new and gently used coats, hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves. All sizes for all genders will be appreciated. Donations can be left at the drop-off box located at the Three Rivers Fire Department.

INTERESTS

THE QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD is looking for new members. The Guild meets on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the basement of the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. The membership fee is \$48 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow us on Facebook.

MONSON WOODWACKERS wood carving club meets every Thursday at Monson Senior Center on Main Street in Monson from 6-8 p.m. The club meets throughout the year. Membership is \$10 for the year, payable in September. Anyone interested should call Barbara Mackintosh at 413-237-8303. There are many beginner projects and experienced teachers, as well, within the club.

STAINED GLASS MAKING CLASS will be held on Thursdays at the Holland Community Center from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. or 6-9 p.m. Glass and tools are supplied. Take six classes for \$48. Class sizes are limited and are open to all ages. For more information call Tom Baltazar at 508-245-2525.

DIAMOND NATIONAL/CASCADES DIAMOND. Did you every work there? Former employees meet on the third Tuesday of every month at Burgundy Brook Restaurant on Route 181 in Palmer from 9-10 a.m. The stories shared are often colorful but old friendships are renewed.

PALMER LIBRARY UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS:

Palmer Public Library Virtual Reader's Circle - Wednesdays, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16 6-7 p.m.. Join the new monthly all-genres Virtual Reader's Circle! Have you read a great book that you want to share with others? Are you looking for new book or author recommendations? Join us for this brand new, all genres welcome, informal, friendly virtual monthly book discussion meet-up via Zoom! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events

[palmerlibrary.org/events](http://www.palmerlibrary.org/events)

Palmer Public Library Virtual Cookbook Club - Thursdays, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17 6-7 p.m.

Do you love to cook or bake and talk about food? Join our new monthly online cookbook club to learn and share recipes! Pick a recipe from your favorite cookbook, place a hold on a cookbook from our catalog for curbside pickup, or download one from our digital catalog. Make the recipe, and then chat via Zoom with others about how it turned out. Have fun while sharing and discovering recipes and cooking tips! To register, please visit our calendar at: www.palmerlibrary.org/events

ONGOING

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations,, call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

PALMER SALVATION ARMY Service Extension Unit offers residents in Palmer and Brimfield emergency assistance on a periodic basis. The outreach coordinator will be located on the second floor of St. Paul's Unitarian Universalist Church at 1060 Central St., Palmer. You must schedule an appointment by calling 413-221-8283 so you know what documentation to bring since those seeking assistance have to meet certain criteria and show proof of need. Please leave your name, number and the date you called. Phone messages are checked weekly, not daily.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children's books, romances,

cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-0033 for more information.

MARTHA'S TABLE STAFF at the Monson-Glendale United Methodist Church is supporting the Monson Open Pantry by providing a meal once a month to anyone who will bring a non-perishable food item. Staff have begun packing and delivering the meals in cooperation with the Monson Senior Center. The meal is served at the church, 162 Main St., Monson on the third Saturday of each month from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. For more information call 267-3798.

SENIOR LUNCHEON. The Monson Council on Aging invites seniors over age 60 to its luncheon program every Monday – Friday at the Monson Senior Center, 106 Main St., Monson. Home cooked meals are always served at noon. The requested donation of \$2.50 includes the entrée, bread, dessert and beverage. Menus are available in the COA newsletter. Luncheon reservations must be made by 2:30 p.m. the day before you would like to come to lunch. For more info or van reservations, call 267-4121.

GAME NIGHT will be held at Top Floor Learning at the Palmer Public Library the second Tuesday of each month from 6-7:45 p.m. There is no fee or registration required, and attendees must be 16 years of age or older unless accompanied by an adult. Games include Scrabble, Cribbage, Monopoly, Rummy, Chess, Checkers, Uno, Yahtzee, Bridge, Skipbo, Crazy 8's, Hearts, Dominos, etc. Attendees may bring their own. For more information call 283-2329 or email palewis19@yahoo.com.

MAKE A DONATION to the Monson Free Library in honor of a special person or family member, in the form of a book, DVD or CD, audio book or magazine subscription. The person will receive a letter informing them of your gift. The cost of donations is \$25 for a book, \$20 for a CD or DVD, \$100 for an audio book and \$20 for a magazine subscription. For more information call 267-3866.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Please join us at 6 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Palmer Healthcare Center, 250 Shearer St. Palmer. Light refreshments will be served Contact Kate Martin at 413-283-8361 for more information.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED - Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond? "Christianity Explored" is a study which seeks to answer these questions from the Gospel of Mark. The course involves seven weekly one-hour sessions using Bible study, related DVD viewing, and discussion of the pertinent passages. For more information contact Mal at 413-267-5025.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at the Brimfield Senior Center, located in the First Congregational Church, 20 Main St., Brimfield include strength training classes on Mondays and Thursdays from 9-10 a.m.; Tai Chi

on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m.; gentle arthritis and chair yoga combo classes on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; bingo on the second and fourth Wednesday of the monthly (\$1 per card, 25 cents per game, cover-all price \$10); There is a suggested donation of \$2 for 55 and up and \$3 for under 55. Lunch is served on Tuesdays and Thursdays, with reservations required by 11 a.m. on the previous day. There is a \$2 suggested donation. Planning, crocheting and knitting is offered the first Friday of each month and massage with Vicki is offered the third Tuesday of the month from 9:15-11:15 a.m., by appointment only. The cost is \$5 for 10 minutes and \$15 for 20 minutes. For more information call 413-245-7253.

BAYSTATE WING AUXILIARY GIFT SHOP sells unique merchandise at reasonable prices. Gift shop hours are Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. with some weekend hours extended during the holidays. All proceeds benefit the Baystate Wing Hospital, a major part of the community, and provide scholarships to seniors graduating from local high schools. Call 413-370-8169 for more information.

MONSON DEMOCRATS WANTED by the Monson Democratic Town Committee that holds meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Polish American Citizens Club, 7 Bliss St., Monson at 7 p.m.

HAVE YOU HAD A BABY RECENTLY? If you are living in the Palmer, Monson or surrounding communities and you have a newborn baby, call the Palmer Monson Family Network at 283-6246 to get your free canvas bag packing with information for you and practical goodies for your baby. The Family Network, a Collaborative for Educational Services program, is funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care.

PLAY & LEARN DROP-IN TIME is happening throughout the school year at the Palmer Monson Family Network on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 10-11:30am. The free playgroup includes free play time, snack and circle time and is open to all families and caregivers and their children from 0-5 years old. All PMFN programs are free. The PMFN is located at 4 Springfield St. in Three Rivers and is a program of the Collaborative of Educational Services and receives funding from the Mass. Department of Early Education and Care. For more information call 283-6246.

INFANT AND TODDLER TIME at the Palmer Monson Family Network is available for families with little ones from 0-24 months of age. The free program happens throughout the school year on Wednesdays from 9-10:30 a.m. and provides a fun environment for families and caregivers to connect with others with young children. Snack and circle time are included. Call 283-6246 for more information.

HOLLAND COMMUNITY CENTER, 40 Brimfield Holland, has announced the following recurring events: Stay Fit classes with Sharon on Mondays at 9:30 a.m., Dance Fit with Alice on Tuesdays at 6 p.m., Low Impact Workout with Debbie Sichel on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Yoga with Sharon on Wednesdays at 5 p.m. and Tai Chi with David Masera every other Thursday at 10 a.m. For more information call 413-245-3163.




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Smola helped pass additional unemployment benefits for 17,000 residents

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) along with their colleagues in the Massachusetts Legislature on Monday, Oct. 26, passed An Act relative to additional unemployment benefits for the neediest recipients currently excluded from the Lost Wages Assistance program, which would enhance unemployment benefits for 17,000 people in Massachusetts by as much as \$1,800 each.

The House and Senate approved the payout of additional unemployment benefits to Massachusetts residents who did not qualify for enhanced federal unemployment ben-

efits over the summer. The legislation authorizes an increase to unemployment compensation for every recipient in Massachusetts not receiving at least \$100 in weekly benefits. This enhancement would apply retroactively to approximately 17,000 recipients.

Smola said these additional funds will help individuals and families pay for food, rent and other expenses during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the federal Lost Wages Assistance Program, individuals collecting unemployment were provided with an additional \$300 in weekly benefits over a six-week period this

summer, beginning at the end of July and running through the first week of September. However, these federal funds were made available only to those individuals who were already receiving at least \$100 in state unemployment benefits. After recording double-digit unemployment figures over the summer, the state's jobless rate dropped to 9.6 percent in September, with 365,400 residents out of work.

The governor signed the legislation into law on Monday. For additional information please contact Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

MASTERPLAN | from page 1

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Senior Planner Becky Bash provided an update on the Palmer Health Addendum, which she said is on track to be completed by December so that "it can be adapted in conjunction with the masterplan."

The health addendum is going to focus on access to healthy food and opportunities for active living, including walking and biking as modes of transportation Bash said.

"We're most concerned with people who face the greatest barriers," she said, such as "vulnerable populations, including older adults who may lose the ability to drive themselves at some point, people living in poverty who may not own cars. And the thinking is that these are populations that face greatest barriers to being able to fully participate in the community so if we can eliminate barriers they face, the community as a whole will benefit."

Bash said about 15% of Palmer residents are considered "food insecure."

When discussing health data in Palmer, lack of access to healthy food, neighborhood walkability and other facts linked to obesity are a concern. Based on the results from body mass screening from schools

across the Commonwealth and a Baystate Community Health Needs Assessment, 40% of children are classified as either overweight or obese in Palmer.

One of the speakers was Palmer resident John Cipora, who said bike paths and walkways are important to promoting the health of residents.

"The more we can integrate those as kind of logically connected services and opportunities, the likelier it is that more and more people would start using it," he said.

"It seems to me that the more that generational exchanges can be supported, the better the opportunity" to promote a healthier community.

Want to participate?

The Healthy Palmer Survey is open until Nov. 15. To take the survey, go to palmermasterplan.com/get-involved. To learn more about the masterplan, including how to view upcoming forums, go to m-pact.tv. Questions and comments can also be sent to Town Planner and Economic Development Director Linda Leduc by calling 413-283-2605 or emailing her at lleduc@townofpalmer.com.

FORUMS | from page 1

Dec. 17: The fifth interactive forum focuses on the element of climate adaptation and sustainability. Leveraging the town's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan, this element will look at the Town's climate projections and vulnerability analysis to comprehensively address future climate change through methods of resiliency.

Jan. 28: The focus is on natural resources, open space and recreation. Referencing the town's certified Open Space and Recreation Plan from 2015, this element will expand upon that plan's contents to address needs in consideration of projected population trends. An important aspect of this element will be weighing the trade-offs between various land uses and competing demands.

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Town Planner Linda Leduc at lleduc@townofpalmer.com or 283-2605 or go to palmermasterplan.com.



ceremony, should they want to participate."

Sponsors include Hillside Heavy Equipment, Infinite Granite, and Dominguez Stoneworks, among others.

Day also said town highway surveyor Zachary Lemieux, as well as the town's selectmen, have been helpful in putting the event together.

Come the day of the ceremony, which will begin at noon, Day said she has a few volunteers who will

help her with the wreaths.

Volunteers like historian Joan Demers said she decided to help Day with this ceremony because of her passion for honoring veterans and is helping locate veterans buried at the cemetery within the last 30 years whose service may not be apparent from headstone inscriptions.

Donations are still be accepted. To contribute, call Day at 413-245-7227 or go to wreathscrossamerica.org/mabcwb.

Registration open for STCC dental radiology course

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College is accepting applications for a two-week dental radiology certificate training for dental assistants, the only program of its kind west of Boston.

This intensive two-week hybrid (online and clinical component) course trains dental assistants in the fundamentals of dental radiography. The course will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 to 9 p.m., Nov. 10 to 12 and Nov. 17 to 19.

The online class will open Nov. 2. Students must successfully complete the first two modules before the first lab on Nov. 10. You must successfully complete the last two modules by Nov. 17, 2020.

Offered through the Workforce Development Center at STCC, the course explores the basics of dental radiography, which includes:

- X-ray physics
- Effects of radiation exposure
- Radiation protection
- Image receptors
- Digital radiography
- Dental radiographic anatomy
- Intra and extra-oral radiographic procedures

Dental assistants who enroll in the program will gain experience exposing digital radiographs and correctly mounting them using a digital mount. This experience will be gained by hands-on exposure on a manikin and hands-on placement on both a manikin and a lab partner. A final laboratory

competency consists of exposure and evaluation of a full mouth series on a live patient selected by the student.

STCC's Workforce Development Center's noncredit programs and classes meet the ever-changing technology and workforce demands of individuals, business, and industry in the region.

For more information about the course and to enroll online, visit stcc.io/radiology. For questions, call 413-755-4225.

STCC, the commonwealth's only technical community college, continues the pioneering legacy of the Springfield Armory with comprehensive and technical education in manufacturing, STEM, healthcare, business, social services, and the liberal arts.

RMV extends hours for those 75 and older

The RMV is extending designated Wednesday appointment hours for customers 75 years of age or older through November and December.

This new customer service option began in early September at select RMV Service Centers, and is now offered at the 17 follow-

ing locations: Brockton, Danvers, Fall River, Greenfield, Lawrence, Leominster, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, New Bedford, North Adams, Pittsfield, Plymouth, Revere, South Yarmouth, Springfield, Watertown and Worcester.

The senior hours are held on Wednesdays (hours vary by loca-

tion) for customers 75 years of age or older whose driver's license or ID card expire in September, October, November and December including customers whose licenses or IDs were originally extended earlier this year and are expired.

History Matters: Nov. 1 to Nov. 15

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

Americans assume that eligible voters have always participated in national elections, but—in a quirky 1801 act of Congress—the residents of Washington, D.C. were barred from casting their ballots. The restriction was not revoked until the 23rd amendment was ratified in 1961; but the privilege to pick a president did not take effect until Nov. 3, 1964.

In 1971, the District of Columbia was finally allowed to have one non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives. That status of neglect—comparable to a United States territory—has not wavered.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Every Vote Matters: The Power of Your Voice, from Student Elections to the Supreme Court" by Thomas A. Jacobs, J.D., and Natalie Jacobs.

History happened on Nov. 4, 2008, when 47-year-old Barack Obama became the 44th President of the United States, the first black American to ascend to the office.

He defeated the war hero/senator, John McCain, from Arizona.

According to History.com, "During the general-election campaign, as in the primaries, Obama's team worked to build a following at the grassroots level and used what his supporters viewed as the candidate's natural charisma, unique life story and inspiring message of hope and change to draw large crowds to his public appearances, both in the United States and on a campaign trip abroad. His team also worked to bring new voters—many of them young or black, both demographics they believed favored Obama—to become involved in the election. Additionally, the campaign was notable for its unprecedented use of the Internet for organizing constituents and fundraising."

For more information, the Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Obama: An Intimate Portrait" by Pete Souza, with a forward by President Obama.

On Jan. 2, 1892, Annie Moore, a 15-year-old girl from Ireland, became the first immigrant to be "processed" at Ellis Island, in New

York. The "people demand" peaked in 1907, but by then, more than one million prospective Americans had passed through.

Eventually, the kinetic activity was curtailed by World War I, and draconian congressional legislation to limit the number of people permitted entry into the country.

By 1954, the facility—which had welcomed 12 million potential new citizens—closed—and was converted into a detention center. In 1990, it re-emerged—after a \$160 million renovation—as the Ellis Island Immigration Museum; two million persons visit each year.

According to History.com "an estimated 40 percent of all Americans can trace their roots through Ellis Island."

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends "Hope and Tears: Ellis Island Voices" by Gwenyth Swain.

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, and is meant to show children that their past is prelude to their future.

WREATHS | from page 1

ting sponsorships for the event. She said she volunteered for this event because of her experience with attending similar ceremonies at different locations.

Day's father, Joseph Pichierri, served in the Vietnam War and she was eager to honor him and other veterans from Brimfield.

"I think it's important to honor those that have fallen," said Day. "I honestly don't think enough is done for veterans, so I just want to honor them and make sure their families at least realize they're not forgotten."

Regarding her outreach, specifically asking local businesses in the area for donations, Day said they have been "very generous," especially during a pandemic-fueled recession.

"There has been so much positivity when I tell them what I'm there for," said Day.

"Everyone has been very supportive. A few people were not familiar with it, but when I explained it, they're like, 'how much do you need?' so they've been great. I also invited them to come and see the

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Courtesy photo

Participating in the virtual forum on the digital divide in Wester Mass. are: Margaret Tantillo, executive director of Dress for Success Western Massachusetts; Dr. Cristina Huebner-Torres, vice president-Research, and Population, Health Programs for Caring Health Center; Henry Thomas, president and CEO of the Urban League of Springfield; Dan Warwick, superintendent of Springfield Public Schools; Jeff Cady, general manager of Crossroads Fiber; Kevin Lynn, executive director of MassHire Springfield Career Center; and Shirley Bloomfield, CEO of The Rural Broadband Association.

Lesser held virtual forum to discuss ‘digital divide’

SPRINGFIELD — Last week, Sen. Eric P. Lesser and Dress for Success Western Massachusetts hosted a virtual forum on the Digital Divide focusing on the fight to plug in disconnected cities and towns across the Commonwealth as well as the prevalence of income-related issues with internet access.

Sen. Lesser and Margaret Tantillo, executive director of Dress for Success Western Mass, were joined by experts and advocates in the region to discuss the high-level impact that broadband access has on remote learning, job training, and

telehealth as well as funding challenges in bridging the digital divide. The group stressed the transformative impacts of reliable, high-speed broadband service in unserved, underserved, and urban communities.

The entire program can be viewed on Facebook.

“I do think that it’s times of challenge that bring out the biggest opportunities,” Senator Lesser said.

“If we all work together to overcome from COVID-19, learn where the gaps are, and make the big choices and decisions to close those gaps, I do feel confident that

we can end up in a more equitable place and we can have a future where we do close the digital divide.”

During the forum, Tantillo also highlighted the Digital Literacy Task Force launched by Dress for Success Western Massachusetts back in June that strives to help guide women through their professional careers and provide resources needed for online meetings or learning. Tantillo noted this by stating, “Right now there are some resources but people don’t know how to access them or where to go.”

Tips to stay safe when using outdoor heaters

Portable propane patio heaters and outdoor heaters are becoming increasingly popular at restaurants and on backyard patios. But it is critical that anyone using an outdoor heater understands how to use it properly and safely.

While there are seven general safety tips that apply to all outdoor heaters, it’s important for businesses and consumers to know which type of heater they have. “Outdoor propane heaters work by different methods and emit heat by convection, forced air, or through infrared heating,” said Leslie Anderson, president and CEO at the Propane Gas Association of New England. “They also vary in capacity, output adjustability, size, and capability to heat areas of differing square footage.”

No matter which model you use, the Propane Gas Association of New England says everyone needs to follow these tips for outdoor heater safety. And always refer to your owner’s manual for information specific to your model.

1. Do not operate or light the heater if you smell gas. Propane has a distinct odor that everyone should be familiar with, and care should be taken when changing propane cylinders and lighting the heater. Heater manufacturers have specific instructions for changing propane tanks and lighting the heater that should always be followed.
2. These heaters are for outdoor use only, never for indoor use. Outdoor heaters may seem like a suitable replacement indoor heat source, but they should never be used in enclosed areas.
3. Outdoor propane heaters should be turned off and disconnected prior to relocation. Outdoor propane heaters offer the convenience of portability and mobility. Though moving them is a simple task, doing so while a propane outdoor heater is in use could create a potentially unsafe situation.
4. Keep outdoor heaters away from exits. Regulations require that portable outdoor propane heaters “shall not be located within five



feet of exits from an assembly occupancy.” This is to prevent heaters from being bumped or knocked over by people entering or exiting the building.

5. Only use outdoor patio heaters on flat, stable surfaces, away from foot traffic. Do not place heaters anywhere unstable, in high-traffic areas, or in the path to primary exits.
6. Keep heaters away from flammables. Each manufacturer has specific requirements for how close heaters can be to combustible materials like paper, and items that might melt, like tents or plastics. Make sure that you are familiar with the manufacturer’s recommendations on distance requirements.
7. Never store propane cylinders indoors. Always store propane cylinders upright with the valve

facing up, on a firm level surface, in an area with plenty of ventilation. Cylinders that are not in use should be stored at least 20 feet away from heaters that are being used, and a minimum of 10 feet away from any source of ignition such as smoking areas or air conditioning/refrigeration equipment.

Propane is green sustainable energy, and an Environmental Protection Agency-designated clean fuel. Using propane reduces greenhouse gas emissions. For more information on the value and safe uses of propane, visit www.pgane.org and www.propane.com. The Propane Gas Association of New England and the New England Propane Foundation serve more than 800 members of the propane industry by promoting safety, education and public awareness of the uses of propane.

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SOCCER

Palmer struggles against B-Town boys



Joe Chartier makes his way around an opponent.



Byron Peabody looks for an open teammate.



Kristian Kotowski follows through on a free kick.



PALMER – Brandyn Costa had the only goal for the Panthers in a tough 8-1 loss against Belchertown last Monday afternoon. Gabe Messier made 10 saves and Byron Peabody had the assist.

Photos by Deanna Sloat

Austin Degnan looks down at the ball as he takes possession.



Ryan DeSantis uses his body to block his opponent from the ball.

SOCCER



Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli

Devin Bedard tries to steal the ball for Pathfinder.

Pioneers tipped by Rams

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

PALMER – Sophomore goalkeepers Patrick French and Daniel Gauvin have split playing time for the Granby boys’ varsity soccer team this fall.

French was scheduled to be the Rams starting keeper in a road match against the Pathfinder Pioneers. Gauvin was slated to replace him at the start of the second half.

Those plans had to be scrapped by Rams head coach Todd Dorman after French was injured during pre-game warmups. Gauvin was inserted into the starting line-up and nearly posted his first varsity shutout, as the Rams defeated the Pioneers, 3-1, last Monday afternoon (October 26).

“We’ve been training two goalkeepers all season, which was very important in today’s match,” Dorman said. “Both of them are very good goalies and we’re looking forward to having them on

our soccer team for the next two years.”

Gauvin, who had started a couple of matches, only had to make three saves in posting the Rams first road victory of the season.

It was also the Rams (2-4) second consecutive victory.

“This is another good win for us,” Dorman said. “We came out and were able to control the game right from the beginning.”

Granby got into the win column for the first time this season following a 6-1 home victory against Ware on October 20.

The Pioneers (1-4) also celebrated a 1-0 victory at Ware on Oct. 8.

Pathfinder head coach Kevin Aldrich was satisfied with his team’s effort in the only meeting of the season against Granby.

“We did play with a little more effort in today’s game than we did in our past several games,”

PIONEERS | page 11

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

More ‘red’ communities as fall season winds down

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – More communities in Western Massachusetts have gone “into the red” during the past week thanks to what government officials are describing as increase in gatherings where people are not observing proper safety protocols.

The actions have filtered down to high school sports as some communities in the red are forced to postpone or cancel action.

Holyoke has fully canceled the remainder of its fall sports season after spending three consecutive weeks labeled as “high-risk”

for COVID-19 spreading. Holyoke was in the red for the fourth time last Thursday.

Joining Holyoke, however, are a whole host of communities in the region. Last Thursday, it was revealed Agawam, Westfield, West Springfield, Granby, and Palmer had joined Holyoke with the designation. Chicopee remained in the red for a second straight week. Monson was red last week, and managed to move down a category to the yellow, moderate risk, designation.

Per the results of the latest numbers, Granby and Palmer have temporarily ceased operations for

RED | page 10

SOCCER

Panthers fall to Orioles

Photos by Deanna Sloat

PALMER – It’s not often that Palmer takes on a powerful Division 1 program like Belchertown, but the Orioles visited Palmer last Tuesday and came away with a 5-1 win. Avery Klingensmith gave Palmer trouble with a goal and three assists.



Alannah Wood makes a turn down the field.



Mia Murray sends a clear ahead of an opponent.



Maddie Theriault attempts to outrun an opponent.



Miyah Mega looks to play the ball off her chest.



Caitlyn Lebel looks to wind up and send the ball downfield.

Cougars grab win at home on Senior Day

By Tim Peterson
Sports Correspondent

WARREN — Darian Shepherd is one of the four seniors listed on the Quaboag varsity field hockey roster.

Shepherd single handedly made sure that Quaboag's senior day game against rival Tantasqua was a very memorable one for her and her three classmates. She scored three goals leading the Lady Cougars to a 3-0 home shutout over the Lady Warriors, last Tuesday afternoon.

The other three Lady Cougars seniors, who were honored in a ceremony held following the game, are Paisleigh Atwood, Hannah Martin, and Abigail Bouchard. Another senior is Josh Gray, who's the Director of Field Hockey Operations.

The victory improved the Lady Cougars season record to a perfect 3-0.

Quaboag sophomore goalie Arianna Masterjohn was credited

with six saves in recording her third shutout of the season.

The Lady Warriors, who defeated Quaboag twice a year ago, also entered last Tuesday's game with a 2-0 record.

"We did beat Quaboag both times that we played them last year," said Tantasqua head coach Shelby Green. "We normally play close games against each other and it's always been a very good rivalry game. We're looking forward to playing them at our field in a couple of weeks."

Shepherd also recorded a hat-trick in the home opener against North Brookfield on October 22.

Quaboag began the season with a 1-0 win at North Brookfield.

It didn't take Shepherd very long to score her first goal in the home game against the Lady Warriors.

Less than two minutes into the opening quarter, a shot attempt by Shepherd deflected

off the pads of Tantasqua junior goalkeeper Sophia Cadavid (11 saves). Shepherd then banged the rebound shot into the right corner of the cage.

"It was very difficult falling behind so early in the game," Green said. "Quaboag is a very good team this year."

The eight Tantasqua seniors are Allison Cibien, Julia Conti, Lauren Glennon, Emily Locke, Ella Matter, Katelyn Mills, Allysen O'Doherty, and Alexa Umanzor.

"Our senior class is awesome," Green said. "It's been hard to get all of them playing time because there are only six players on the field this year besides the goalie."

Green substituted six players at a time against Quaboag.

Another change caused by COVID-19 is there aren't any penalty corners. The game is also played in 15-minute quarters instead of two halves.

The Lady Warriors had

a couple of chances to tie the score during the second quarter on shots by sophomore Claire Godek, junior Kiana Barnes, and Locke.

The Lady Cougars held a 1-0 halftime lead.

With 11:01 left in the third quarter, Shepherd gave her team a 2-0 advantage by scoring an unassisted goal.

Shepherd completed her second hat-trick of the season two minutes later following another unassisted goal.

Shepherd finished the game with a team-high five shots on goal.

Atwood was credited with four shots against Tantasqua. The trio of eighth grader Katelyn Swistak, freshman Isabelle Burgess, and Atwood had two shots on goal for the home team.

The two rivals are scheduled to meet again at Tantasqua Regional on November 12.



Thompson Speedway has announced the 2021 modified series.



Submitted photos

Racing will return to Thompson Speedway in 2021

THOMPSON, Conn. — The high banks of Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park will roar once again in 2021. American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have announced a six-event schedule for the coming season that features the new Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series.

The Outlaw Open Series consists of half a dozen high-paying events for Tour-type Modifieds that are expected to attract the top teams in the region. The series begins at the 46th annual Thompson Icebreaker from Friday, April 9 to Sunday, April 11. A 150-lap, \$10,000-to-win Outlaw Open Series event will high-

light the weekend card.

The stakes get even higher at the season-ending 59th annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing from Friday, October 8 to Sunday, October 10. ACT and PASS have organized the return of the historic Thompson 300, which was last contested in 2005. A \$20,000 minimum prize has been posted for the winner of the 300-lap showdown.

In addition, ACT and PASS are selling \$50 lap sponsorships for the Thompson 300. All laps that are sold will award the full \$50 to the leader of that lap. This means a driver could earn up to \$35,000 that weekend.

Four other events are scheduled in-between the Icebreaker

and World Series. The additional race dates are Wednesday, June 16; Wednesday, July 7; Wednesday, August 11; and Wednesday, September 8. These dates were chosen to minimize conflict with other tracks and series in the region, allowing teams and fans to attend as many events as they wish.

The Outlaw Open Series features at the Wednesday events will pay at least \$5,000-to-win and potentially more. Furthermore, drivers and teams that attempt to qualify for all six events will be eligible for potential provisional starting spots at the Thompson 300.

"We think the Outlaw Open Modified Series is going to be huge for teams and fans," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "The open-event model for the Modifieds has gotten a lot of traction in recent years, and we got to see it first-hand at the most recent World Series. We're especially excited for the return of the Thompson 300. Somebody will be walking away with at least \$20,000 that weekend, and it's going to take the intensity to a whole other level."

Thompson Speedway's local divisions will also be part of all six events, including the Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, Limited Sportsmen/Street

Stocks, SK Light Modifieds, and Mini Stocks. Although details are still being finalized, ACT and PASS officials hope to organize special events for the local divisions throughout the summer, giving each class a chance in the spotlight.

A variety of touring series and open shows will also be part of the Icebreaker and World Series weekends. More information regarding all events will be announced over the coming weeks.

"The most important part of all of this is that Thompson oval track racing will continue," PASS owner Tom Mayberry said. "We were very satisfied with how the Thompson 150 and World Series went in 2020, and those events showed the appetite is still there for racing in eastern Connecticut. With those events to build on, we think the excitement for Thompson Speedway is going to be even bigger in 2021."

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@act-tour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACT-Tour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarsseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSML14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquiries, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsons Speedway.com, or visit www.thompsons Speedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

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Athlete of the Week

Brandyn Costa
Palmer High School

Brandyn Costa scored the lone goal for Palmer in their defeat against Belchertown last week. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Air Force event to occur in 'Bubbleville' at Mohegan

UNCASVILLE, Conn. — The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today a revised field of teams and schedule for the 2020 Air Force Reserve Tip-Off Tournament. The annual NCAA men's exempt tournament sponsored by the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference will now take place Saturday, November 28, Sunday, November 29, Thursday, December 3 and Friday, December 4 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut.

"The Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament has been held at Mohegan Sun Arena for many years with great success. COVID-19 and the uncharted college basketball restart has undoubtedly brought many challenges, but we're proud to have a partner and venue that provides us the opportunity to host this annual event under a new set of safety protocols," said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Basketball Hall of Fame. "We look forward to hosting this year's field of teams in a bubble-like atmosphere at beautiful Mohegan Sun."

The Basketball Hall of Fame Tip-Off Tournament is split into two brackets, Naismith and Springfield. The

Naismith bracket will play November 28 and 29 and includes University of Rhode Island (Atlantic 10), University of South Florida (American Athletic), Temple University (American Athletic), Virginia Tech (Atlantic Coast). The Springfield bracket will play December 3 and 4 and includes University at Albany (America East), Drexel University (Colonial), Long Island University (Northeast), and Quinnipiac University (Metro Atlantic). Game times and television broadcast details and will be released at a later date. For more information, please visit www.halloffametiptoff.com.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Gazelle Group are collaborating to produce multiple college basketball games at Mohegan Sun from November 25 through December 5, 2020 and have named the space "Bubbleville." Bubbleville will house several events relocated and reimagined due to COVID-19 and provides a controlled environment with teams and event staff adhering to tribal, government, and NCAA health and safety protocols and testing requirements.

Turley Sports joins Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your

friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

RED ■ from page 4

at least a week, and two in the case Granby.

Athletic Director Alison Jordan said Granby will not be able to play high school sports for at least two weeks. Granby fit in a pair of soccer games with South Hadley last Wednesday afternoon prior to the state numbers coming out. Because of daily COVID-19 test numbers coming in, Granby town officials were aware of the fact the town would soon be labeled high-risk. This is the second time Granby is in the red. It happened prior to the high school season in early September, but only lasted for one week.

Due to local protocols, sports had to be shut down. The same is true in Palmer, where games are postponed through at least Thursday, Nov. 5. Games Friday are still on the schedule in hopes Palmer gets out of the high-risk designation when new numbers are

released on Thursday. However, Pathfinder Regional remains playing this week. Pathfinder, which has students in numerous communities in the surrounding area, is located in Palmer.

Agawam, Westfield, and Chicopee continue to play sports despite their high-risk designation.

However, in the case of Chicopee, if the city continues in the red this Thursday, both Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive could be forced to shut down their sports at least temporarily.

Agawam remains playing into this week, though their schedule is set to wind down in the next week or so with the final week and a half remaining for makeup games.

The fall season is set to conclude on Nov. 20. There are no postseason tournaments planned, including any league tournament through the PVIAC as of press time.

CHECK OUT ALL THE

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Wyatt Seibert jukes to get around a Granby midfielder.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli



Kiernan Moe passes to his left.



Tom Swift stops the ball near the sideline.



Ethan Farrar tries to pick up the loose ball.

PIONEERS | from page 9

Aldrich said. “We managed to keep them from scoring any goals during the second half.”

A year ago, Granby posted a 2-0 victory over Pathfinder, which was played at a St. Joe’s Field.

Granby is one of the communities within the Pathfinder Regional School district.

The only member of the Pathfinder boys soccer team, who lives in Granby, is senior defender Wyatt Seibert.

“Wyatt is one of our captains and he lives in Granby,” Aldrich said. “He told me that he had this game circled on his schedule and he was extremely excited about it.”

Despite a couple of early scoring chances by the Rams, last Monday’s match remained scoreless until the end of the opening quarter.

Granby junior Tyler Sudsbury broke the ice with four minutes remaining in the first quarter by blasting a shot into the upper right corner past Pathfinder senior goalkeeper Austin Tocci (10 saves) for an unassisted goal.

A couple of minutes later, Granby senior Nolan Sullivan beat three defenders in the box for a loose ball before putting a shot into the back of the net for another unassisted goal.

In the middle of the second quarter, Pathfinder senior Devin Bedard lined a shot that was deflected off the crossbar by Gauvin. The ball came straight down and Gauvin was able to make the save before it crossed over the line.

“Daniel did a very good job during the entire match,” Dorman said. “He did make a big save during the first half, which helped protect the lead. We managed to keep the momentum after that.”

The Rams would increase their lead to 3-0 a minute later following another unassisted goal by sophomore Roman Bullock.

Both teams were held scoreless during the third quarter.

A set shot taken by Pathfinder senior Ethan Farrar from about 25 yards out six minutes into the final quarter sailed into the back of the net ending Gauvin’s shutout bid.

“It was a great shot by Ethan,” Aldrich said. “He scored a similar goal in our win against Ware.”

The Rams outshot the Pioneers 22-11.

Help feature your student- athletes

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The fall season is nearing its end and Turley Publications has been all over the action.

But with this unpredictable season there have been temporary or in some cases, permanent stoppages in play, and we still want to help feature your athletes, especially those who are seniors this year.

We continue to ask for help on this season in order to bring the best coverage we can possibly manage and fill our pages with names and color.

We know that fans will be limited to the home crowds, but that is where you all come in.

We have a limited number of staff to start the school year due to the pandemic, and while we strive to get to as many games as possible, we cannot get to everywhere.

If you are a parent, coach, or even player, and you have information or photographs to share, we definitely want to hear from you.

If you don’t see one of our photographers at a game, please feel free to send your own action photos of games in order to bolster our coverage. If you are interested in regularly submitted photos, please do contact us.

Otherwise, we would love to hear from anyone who reports scores, details, and any

milestones that occur during this unprecedented season. Please be sure the information you provide us is accurate and check with coaches, if necessary, before submitting.

Additionally, with the various senior games that have been held already or are still waiting to be held, we welcome submitted photos from those events and information about graduating seniors who participated in Fall 1 sports.

We also encourage all coaches to submit their results and details as much as possible. Send any and all information and photos for inclusion to sports@turley.com.

Baystate Health announces visitor changes during this time

SPRINGFIELD – Baystate Health is announcing, now in effect, additional changes to inpatient and outpatient visitor guidelines previously announced in June as the state began its reopening process.

Visitation hours continue to be daily from noon to 8 p.m.

Changes to the visitation policy at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield include:

- Inpatient**
- No visitors under the age of 18 are allowed in the hospital, unless the visitor is a child or sibling of a patient
 - COVID-19 negative patients are allowed one visitor at a time with the following new exceptions
 - OB patients who are in labor and postpartum: Two visitors: one birth partner and one visitor
 - Hospice, end-of-life patients or for life-changing diagnosis: up to two visitors and one clergy member
 - COVID-19 negative patients located on care units which have COVID-19 positive/PUI patients: one visitor
 - COVID-19 positive patients/ patients awaiting COVID test results
 - No visitors with the following exceptions:
 - Patients under the age of 18: one parent or guardian may visit
 - OB patients who are in labor and postpartum: one birth-

ing partner

Hospice and end-of-life patients or for life-changing diagnosis: two visitors and one clergy member

Patients with physical or cognitive disabilities: one companion

Hospital surgery and procedures - No visitors

Emergency Department: Adult – no visitor with the following exceptions:

For patients under 18: One parent or guardian may visit

For OB patients who are in labor: One birthing partner

For hospice patients, end-of-life patients or for life-changing diagnosis: Two visitors and one clergy member

For patients with physical or cognitive disabilities: One companion

WETU

One partner for patients being admitted, compassionate exceptions on a case by case basis.

Baystate Children’s Hospital:

COVID-19 negative patients are allowed up to two parents/guardians at a time

The Pediatric Emergency Department is allowing two parents at a time unless COVID positive or is a person under investigation for COVID

COVID-19 positive patients/patients awaiting COVID test results – Patients under the age of 18: One parent or guardian at a time

Baystate Wing Hospital:

Adult emergency department

Adult, no visitor with the following exceptions:

For patients under 18: One parent or guardian may visit

For hospice patients, end-of-life patients or for life-changing diagnosis: Two visitors and one clergy member

For patients with physical and cognitive disabilities: One companion

Hospital surgery and procedures – One visitor can accompany patient

Mary Lane Outpatient Center in Ware:

Adult emergency department

Adult – no visitor with the following exceptions:

For patients under 18: One parent or guardian may visit

For hospice patients, end-of-life patients or for life-changing diagnosis: Two visitors one clergy member

For patients with physical and cognitive disabilities, etc.: One companion

Hospital surgery and procedures – One visitor can accompany patient

All visitation is at the discretion of Baystate Health.

For the latest information on visitor guidelines, visit baystatehealth.org/visitors.

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Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Police Department responded to six arrests or summons for arrest from Oct. 27 to Nov. 3. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court at a future date and innocent until proven guilty.

Friday, Oct. 30

Joselito Medina, 43, of 63 Langdon St., Springfield, was arrested at 3:19 p.m., on Pearl Street in Springfield, on charges of larceny of property over \$1,200 and receiving stolen property.

Saturday, Oct. 31,

Charles E. Kershaw, 53, of 1509 N. Main St., Palmer, was arrested at 5:02 a.m., on Park Street in Palmer, on charges of attempting to commit a crime (breaking and entering); breaking and entering at nighttime, with intent to commit a felony; larceny from building; possession of burglarious instrument; trespassing; walk/ride on railroad track; resisting arrest, and two counts of destruction of property.

Eric J. Collins, 55, of 180 Breckenridge St., Palmer, was arrested at 7:10 p.m., on Park Street in Palmer, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

MONSON

The Monson Police Department responded to two arrests or summons for arrests from Oct. 25 to Oct. 31. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court at a future date and innocent until proven guilty.

Sunday, Oct. 25

Christian Anthony Garcia Hoyos, 33, of 38 School St., Springfield, was arrested at 11:10 a.m., for a WMS warrant.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to a total of nine calls from Oct. 28 to Nov. 2.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 10:12 a.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident with a fluid spill on Park Street. The department returned to service at 12:12 p.m.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 6:07 p.m., the department responded to an oil spill on Park Street. The department returned to service at 6:46 p.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, at 9:25 a.m., the department responded to an oil spill on Park Street. The department returned to service at 9:40 a.m.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, at 9:47 a.m., the department provided medical assistance on Holbrook Street. The department returned to service at 10:11 a.m.

On Friday, Oct. 30, at 12:04 p.m., the department conducted a water rescue on Cottage Avenue, with mutual aid from Wilbraham Fire Department. The department returned to service at 1:56 p.m.

On Friday, Oct. 30, at 8:18

p.m., the department responded to an arcing electrical equipment call on South Main Street. The department returned to service at 8:41 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, at 12:07 p.m., the department responded to a call, which had no incident found at dispatched address on Wilbraham Street. The department returned to service at 12:35 p.m.

On Saturday, Oct. 31, at 3:01 p.m., the department responded to a lockout on Homestead Street. The department returned to service at 3:35 p.m.

On Monday, Nov. 2, at 1:15 p.m., the department responded to a furnace malfunction on Central Street. The department returned to service at 1:45 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department had no calls to report for this week.

BONDSVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to one call from Oct. 27 to Nov. 2.

On Monday, Nov. 2, at 4:22 p.m., the department responded to a

smoke detector activation on Third Street. The department returned to service at 4:45 p.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to a total of five calls from Oct. 26 to Nov. 1.

On Monday, Oct. 26, at 4:19 p.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Butler Road. The department returned to service at 4:21 p.m.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 3:12 p.m., the department conducted a smoke investigation on Upper Palmer Road. The department returned to service at 3:29 p.m.

On Tuesday, Oct. 27, at 5:38 p.m., the department responded to a carbon monoxide alarm activation on Silver Street. The department returned to service at 6:22 p.m.

On Wednesday, Oct. 28, at 12:49 a.m., the department responded to a vehicle fire on Bumstead Road. The department returned to service at 1:58 a.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 1, at 1:29 a.m., the department conducted a fire investigation on Bumstead Road. The department returned to service at 1:54 p.m.

baby's first Christmas



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March 7, 2020

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Student organization at Springfield College raises \$750 for mental health

SPRINGFIELD – Last year, members of the Springfield College Physician Assistant Student Organization (PASO) held a volleyball tournament with proceeds benefiting the Mental Health Association (MHA). Not surprisingly, the PASO volleyball tournament planned for spring 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic, but that did not dissuade members of the student group from finding a way to raise funds for MHA.

"Our volleyball tournament was canceled in the spring due to COVID-19, but the members of PASO still wanted to raise money for MHA," said Alexandria Perrone, President of the Physician Assistant Student Organization at Springfield College. "MHA is an organization based here in Springfield that works to provide mental health services and counseling to individuals in our local community."

"Members of PASO planned and carried out a virtual fundraiser where club members, families and friends could donate a set amount to be entered in a drawing for prizes such as gift cards donated by local restaurants. The PASO virtual fundraiser took place during PA Week, Oct. 6 –12, and we announced giveaway winners through email and social media. Social distancing made things a little harder, but with some creativity and effort we raised \$750 for MHA!"

"Even though members of PASO couldn't hold their volleyball tournament in person this year, it didn't prevent them from applying their time, talent and energy to put on a virtual event to benefit MHA," said Kimberley A. Lee, VP Resource Development and Branding for MHA. "We admire their resolve and respect their commitment to help people feel better and live their best life. We are thrilled that PASO has again chosen to support the important work of MHA."



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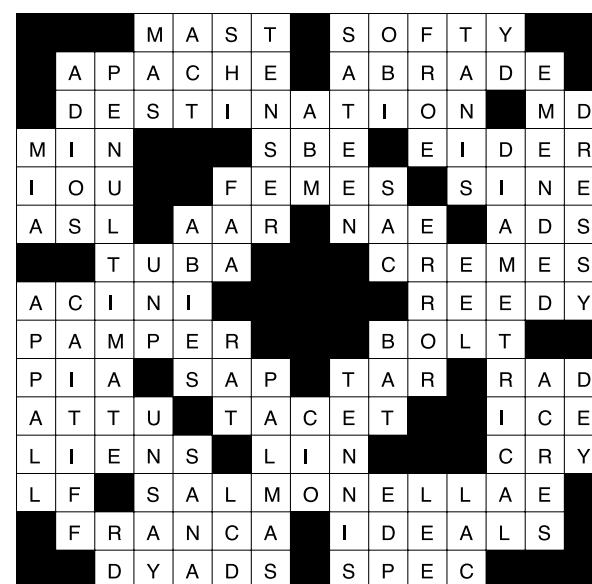
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O B I T U A R I E S

Ernest Leonard, 79

PALMER – Ernest (Ted) E. Leonard passed away Oct. 18, 2020, just six days prior to his 80th birthday. He died at home of natural causes after a long battle with vascular disease with his wife and son by his side. He was born in Dighton, Mass., and grew up in the Fall River area, where he attended school. Upon graduating high school, Ted joined the United States Air Force serving his tour of duty honorably during peacetime as a ground radio operator. He was stationed in both Alaska and Japan. After being discharged from the military, he relocated to Palmer to pursue a job opportunity and this was where he would call home forever. He was a machinist by trade and worked for several machine shops before landing a job as a supervisor for Tambrands Inc., where he worked for over 27 years until the plant was closed by the new owners, Proctor and Gamble. At 56 years of age he earned his CDL license and drove trucks for both the private sector and for the United States Postal Service until his retirement. Ted loved being on the road after being confined indoors. He was the son of late Lloyd and Mary (Hal-

liday) Leonard. He is survived by the love of his life, Dorothy and his much-loved son, Spencer, who was his caretaker and kept him alive for all these years. He is also survived by his brother Donald Leonard of Gilbertville, Ky., and his sister Carolyn Patton of Jack-sonville, Ala. He also leaves his brother and sister-in-law Francis and Susan Boucher (his favorite in laws) of Monson, his brother and sister-in-laws Robert and Elaine Boucher of Thorndike, his sister in law Carol Boucher of Palmer and several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by his son Eric Leonard in 1998, his father and mother-in-law Alphonse and Pauline Boucher, his brother-in-law Joseph Boucher, his brother-in-law Arthur Patton, his sister in law Carol Leonard, as well as his four-footed companions, who he loved dearly. Ted spent many happy years coaching youth sports, including baseball, soccer, and basketball, along with his dear friend, (the late Jimmy Duke), up through



his sons' high school years. Along with his wife and son, he spent many summers at a permanent campsite on Cape Cod, where he met life-long friends, Mary and Verne Pepe of Walpole. Ted and his family were parishioners of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Thorndike. He was very fond of Father O'Shea and was proud that his sons served as altar boys for many years. The family would like to thank Baystate Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice for their support over the past few years. Per Ted's wishes, and in accordance to COVID-19 regulations, a private service was held on Oct. 23, 2020, at St. Thomas Cemetery, lead by Father Richard Turner of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Palmer. The Honor Guard of the United States Air Force bestowed on him full military honors. The family would like to thank Beers and Story Funeral Home for the wonderful service in their time of need.

Russell A. Hedges, 1967-2020

MONSON — Russell A. Hedges, 53, passed away suddenly on Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020 while battling a long illness.

He was born in Holyoke on July 21, 1967, and was educated in the Chicopee schools before entering the Navy in 1985. As a reservist, he was a carpenter in the Navy Seabees and also worked as an electrician for Bernashe Electric. During that period, Russ was also part of the Chicopee Special/Reserve Police.

In 2001, Russ transferred to the Air Force and became part of the 439th Security Forces at Westover AFB. He served in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle. He received numerous awards and citations in addition to the Meritorious Service Medal Iraqi Freedom Campaign Medal and Expeditionary Medal Global War On Terrorism. He served his

country honorably for over 24 years and retired in 2010.

Most recently, Russ became the president of the Oregon Sportsmen's Club of Western Massachusetts after serving many years as a board of director. Russ enjoyed the Patriots and the Bruins, playing cards, fishing, making people laugh, spending time with his dog Minka, and harassing his rooster, Richard.

Russell leaves behind his beloved wife of 26 years, Kristin A. (Burzynski) Hedges of Monson; his brother, Robert Hedges of Chicopee; his sister, Lynn Jones of Chicopee and his aunt Carole Desroches and her husband Paul of Belchertown. He also leaves several nieces, nephews and numerous friends and family. Russell was predeceased by his mother Linda Hedges.



Visiting hours will be held 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge St., Monson, MA 01057. His funeral will begin 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 6, at the funeral home and conclude with the burial with military honors at 11 a.m. in Hillcrest Cemetery in Monson. Friends and family are encouraged to write a memory, especially funny ones that you remember of Russell and bring that along to the services to be placed in a memory box for Kristin.

In remembrance of his life, any charitable donations are asked to be made to the Oregon Sportsmen's Club of Western MA. Please visit lombardfuneralhome.com for more details and online condolences.

Sheila M. Madigan 1947 - 2020

THREE RIVERS — Sheila May (Morris) Madigan, 73, passed away suddenly on Sunday, Oct. 25, 2020, at Baystate Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer, Mass. Sheila was born in Palmer on July 29, 1947, daughter of the late Francis and Dorothy (Aldrich) Morris. She was a 1965 Palmer High School graduate and earned a degree in graphic arts while residing in Pittsburgh, Pa. Sheila was employed at Baystate Wing Memorial Hospital in Palmer for 21 years, serving as a graphic artist in the

printing operations department, mail clerk, medical records secretary and courier. Sheila is survived by her companion of 35 years, Charles W. Smith, her son, Gannon M. Madigan and his wife Allison, her daughter, Daedra Madigan, her grandchildren, Kelsey Madigan and Breona Horne, her brother, Francis "Frank" Morris. Sheila was pre-deceased by her parents, and her two brothers, Bob and Rick Byoreck. Sheila was a strong, independent, free-spirited woman, an avid gardener and she loved to

take day trips to the beach. She enjoyed listing to local blues and bluegrass bands and attending local festivities. Sheila was a devoted mother and grandmother and will be deeply missed. Cremation took place in Springfield Cemetery and Crematory. A private memorial will be held by her family. Cebula Funeral Home of Ware is assisting her family with the final arrangements. For more information and online guest book, please visit cebulafuneralhome.com.

John Mason, 59

BRIMFIELD — John Arthur Mason, 59, of Brimfield, originally from Hampden, passed away on Sunday, Oct. 25, after a courageous battle with cancer. John was a hard-working truck driver that loved cars, motorcycles, working around the house, music, football and most of all, spending time with his loving family. John was a "Jack of All Trades" and could fix just about anything. He loved putting his skills to use and helping whoever was in need. John is survived by his loving and devoted wife, Kim Mason (Croteau), his two sons, Derrick and Kyle,

his mother Gloria Mason (Galway), his two brothers, Jim and Joe, his daughter-in-law Angela and his two granddaughters, Madilyn and Annika. John is predeceased by his father, Jack Mason and his grandparents, Arthur and Clara Moorhouse and William and Gertrude Galway. The family held a private memorial service for John at Beers and Story in Palmer and a celebration of life gathering will be held once social distancing protocols allow.



At that time, whom ever would like to pay their respects are very welcome to do so. John will be greatly missed by all that who knew him. All services are private and Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home was entrusted with the arrangements. Donations may be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society. For more information or to sign an online guest book, please visit beersandstory.com.

DEATH NOTICES

Russell A. Hedges, 53
Died: Oct. 22, 2020
Visiting Hours
Nov. 5 5-7 p.m.
Lombard Funeral Home

Sheila M. Madigan, 73
Died: Oct. 25, 2020
Services are Private

William F. Ochs, 72
Died: Oct. 31, 2020
Funeral Service: Nov. 7 at 10 a.m.
Lombard Funeral Home

Susan Christine Taylor, 64
Died: Oct. 12, 2020

Ernest Leonard, 79
Died: Oct. 18, 2020

John Arthur Mason, 59
Died: Oct. 25, 2020
Services are Private

Alan D. Provost, Jr., 24
Died: Sept. 10, 2020
Visiting Hours Nov. 14 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Lombard Funeral Home, Monson

Robert Woodman, 56
Died: Oct. 27, 2020

O B I T U A R I E S

William F. Ochs, 72

MONSON — William F. Ochs, 72, passed away Saturday Oct. 31, 2020, surrounded by love of family.

Bill was born in Boston to the late William A. and Irene E. (Barter) Ochs. He grew up in South Boston, Palmer and Wales before enlisting in the US Army. Bill honorably served during the Vietnam War where he received many medals of honor including the Silver Star for gallantry in action, Bronze Star for combat valor, Purple Heart with 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, and Combat Infantry Badge. While in the Army he also earned the Marksmanship Badge - Pistol, Expert Badge - Rifle, Drill Sergeants Identification Badge, and Good Conduct Medal.

Upon his discharge he returned to the Three Rivers section of Palmer and later moved to Monson, where he raised his family. He coached Parks and Recreation baseball teams there while his children were young.

For many years, he continued the long-established Monson

tradition of honoring the death of any local veteran by lowering the flag at Memorial Hall. Bill was a life-long Red Sox fan and lover of Rock & Roll. He enjoyed fishing at the Cape and anywhere he could cast a line. He received the greatest joy from giving gifts to family, friends, and especially the grandchildren and any little ones. Bill was a lifetime member of the DAV and the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Bill leaves his loving wife, Gretchen E. Neggers; his children, Michele Strum of Hampden, Emily Ochs of Ludlow, and Daniel Ochs and his wife Chelsea of North Smithfield, R.I.; a brother, Lawrence Ochs and his wife Carol of Three Rivers; sisters, Virginia Maynard of Chicopee, Kathleen Pare and her husband Wayne of Three Rivers, Cynthia Johnson of Ware, and Suzanne Plescia and her husband Tony of Monson; grand-



children Taylor and Owen Strum, Elwyn Ochs and a grandson due on Veterans Day. He also leaves many nieces, nephews, godchildren and friends. Bill was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Daniel Ochs and Stephen Ochs

Visiting hours will be 5-8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, in Lombard Funeral Home, 3 Bridge St. Monson. A funeral service will be held 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, in Lombard Funeral Home. Burial with Military Honors will be held at Massachusetts Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Agawam at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in Bill's name to Wales VFW PO Box 324 Wales, MA 01081. In the memo line please indicate, Town of Wales Veterans Memorial in Memory of William Ochs. For online condolences please visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

Alan Provost, Jr., 24

MONSON — Alan D. Provost, Jr., 24, died suddenly after an illness, Sept. 10, 2020.

Alan was born in Norfolk, Va., to Alan and Dawn Michelle Provost. He was a graduate of Monson High School class of 2014. He continued his education at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and graduated in the class of 2018. He was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve in 2018 with the rank of Lt., junior grade.

Growing up in Monson Alan enjoyed high school athletics, racing and off road vehicles. He most especially loved adven-

tures with family and friends. At the time of Alan's passing he was a second mate on the ship "Carolyn" for the Edison Chouest Off-shore Company. He was sailing the Pacific out of Guam.

Alan leaves his parents Alan and Dawn Michelle Provost of Florida; a brother, Nicholas Provost; grandparents Roy and Lisa Provost of Florida, Mike and Winnie Bloxom of Florida; aunts and uncles, Roy and Becky Provost of Monson, George and Leah



Stewart of Colorado; cousins, Matt, Brody, Jake, Brendan, Carlee, Emily and Austin.

Visiting hours with memorial tribute will be held in Lombard Funeral Home 3 Bridge St. in Monson from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14.

In lieu of flowers please consider a memorial donation in Alan's name to Monson Athletic Booster Association PO Box 331 Monson, MA 01057.

For online condolences, visit lombardfuneralhome.com.

Susan Taylor, 64

PALMER — Susan Christine Taylor, 64, of Palmer, passed away on Monday, Oct. 12, 2020, at John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington, Conn. with her daughters by her side.

Susan was born on Oct. 7, 1956, in Hartford, Conn., the daughter of the late Paul A. and Janet M. (Keller) Taylor. She graduated in 1974 from East Hartford's Penney High School before earning degrees in education from MacMurray College in Jacksonville, Ill., in 1978, and Eastern Connecticut State University in 1990. Susan had a very rewarding and successful career, which spanned over four decades as a special education teacher. She retired after 10 years of service at the Coventry Public School System.

Susan's life was spent with ties to the Masonic family. She is a former Supreme Deputy for the State of Connecticut, IORG, and was a member of Good Intent Chapter, OES until her death. In

addition to her Masonic service, she volunteered her time in her community's garden club and local food bank.

Susan was an avid tea drinker, gardener, and all-around nature lover. She was an enthusiastic baseball fan who loved the New York Yankees (all rise!). She is remembered by her family, friends, and former students as an exceptionally kind and empathetic person who encouraged generosity, compassion, humor, and individualism.

She was a defender of social equality and advancement, and a believer in the potential of humankind. Her family is proud that her last legal act in this life was casting her 2020 ballot against this administration.

Susan leaves behind her partner, Michael Korzec of Palmer; her beloved daughters, Jessica Lemus and her partner



Robbie of Las Vegas, Nev., and Lauren Thomas and her partner Chris of Winchendon; her four siblings, Deborah Savaria and her husband Ron of Broad Brook, Conn., Richard Taylor and his wife Andrea of Port Orange, Fla., Stephen

Taylor of Manchester, Conn., and Jennifer O'Connor of Inglis, Fla., as well as an aunt and uncle, numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and many close friends.

A small memorial for Susan will be held next spring to celebrate her life with family and close friends. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Susan's name to Food Share, 39 Walnut St. Palmer, MA 01069, or to Heifer International: heifer.org.

To leave an online condolence or share a memory with her family, please visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Robert Woodman, 56

Robert Woodman, 56 died Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2020, after a long battle with heart disease.

He was born on March 12, 1964, in Brookfield, grew up in Palmer and attended Pathfinder Trade School.

He lived most of his life in Palmer, was a heavy equipment operator, snowplow driver and mechanic.

He loved playing the lottery, trips to the casino and playing darts with his team members

from the Ware River Dart League. Rob was always willing to help others out.

He is survived by two children, a daughter Tiffany of New York, a son Robert Jr of Monson, his mother Beverly Woodman of Brimfield. Two sisters, Doreena Medina of Florida and Christine Rys of Palmer, a brother Tony Woodman of



New Braintree, three nieces (Hollie, Ashley, Annamaria) and a nephew (Kevin). He was predeceased by a younger brother Kevin in 1986.

To reduce the risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus during the pandemic, a memorial get together will be held at a later date.

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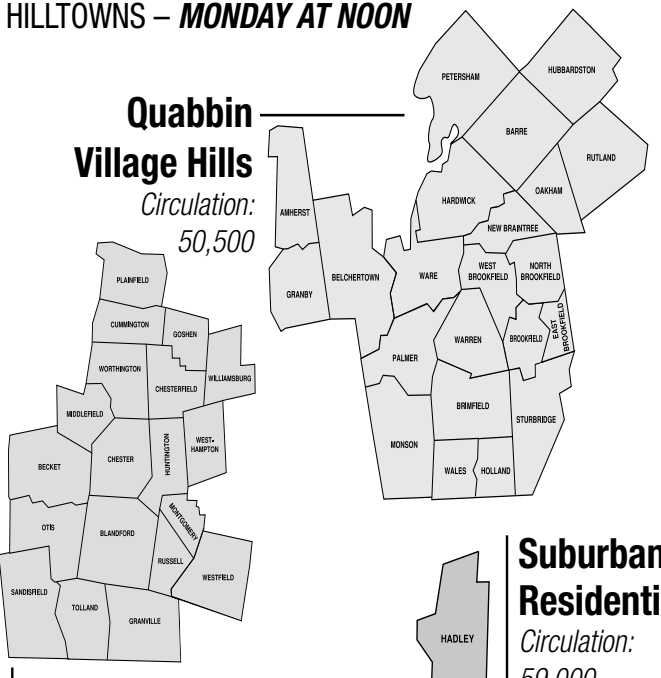
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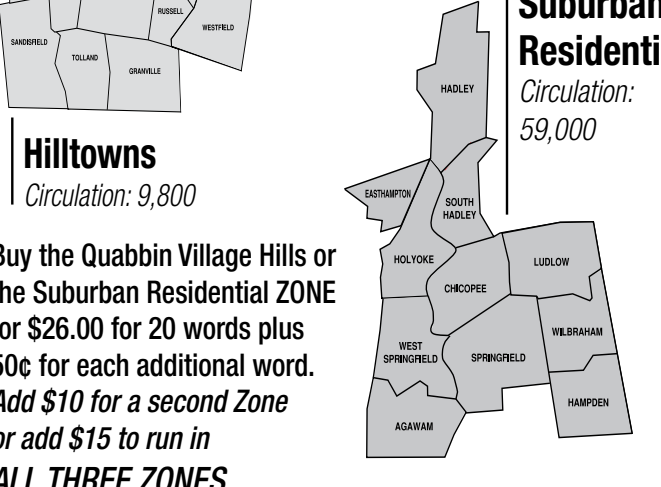
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Wilton's Children Store turns 129 this year

Continues to offer quality clothing

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

WARE – Wilton's Children Store has certainly stood the test of time, and so has its owner, Robert McLean. The business turned 129-years-old this year, and he has been with the company for 55 years and has owned it for 42 years.

He joined the business in 1965, when it was still a producer of knitted athletic uniforms for sports teams.

"I was discharged in 1965 from the U.S. Army, and my sergeant told me I could get unemployment if I couldn't find a job right away," he said. When he went to apply, the unemployment official told him there was an opening at Wilton's. He applied and has been there ever since.

"During the interview I asked the owner, Charles Maxwell, how far I could go in the company, and he told me that someday I could have his job if I could do it," McLean said. And that turned out to be the case in 1978, when he purchased the business after Maxwell's death.

For years the company made knitted material into athletic uniforms for teams all across the country, and was offered by sporting goods stores in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

In 1926, when Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel, made it across she was wearing a Wilton's bathing suit. And many professional teams wore Wilton uniforms.

But like many businesses, Wilton's adapted with the times, and in the 1980s McLean stopped making sportswear and entered the retail business with children's clothing, even making Osh Kosh clothing for a time.

The children's clothing business has changed a bit over the years as have parents and children, he said. "The kids have changed," he laughed during an interview in his office. "Parents would come in and they would tell the kids what they were going to buy; now I hear kids telling the parents what they want to have." Older children are particularly firm in stating what they like and don't like, he said.

Fashion has also changed, he said. "Years ago I would have three big racks of clothes just as you walk in the door, and they would be filled with very ornate girls' dresses, by the brand Just Adorable," he said of what he offered at Easter and other holidays. The dresses were very popular. These days, he said, people don't



Charles Maxwell



Turley Publications staff photo by Eileen Kennedy

Wilton's Children Store in one of the former Otis Mills buildings on East Main Street has been in business for 129 years.

dress up and that kind of clothing is no longer popular. In fact, that brand went out of business, he said.

Where the clothing was made has changed as well. "When I started the retail business 90% of my stock was made domestically, but now 90% is imported," he said, which includes many major brands which have gone overseas.

One thing that hasn't changed over the years, and to which he attributes the success of the business, is its employees. "I have an excellent, excellent staff," McLean said. "The average length of time they've been with me is 40 years. Many of them have been with me for a long, long time." There are eight employees including himself.

The employees are responsible for buying different aspects of the merchandise, and they are very knowledgeable about all of the clothing. "I just can't stress enough how important they are to the success of the business," he said.

He said after switching to retailing children's clothing, the business took off. It now has a mailing list of 8,000 customers, which is updated every three years. The names and addresses are all taken from customer's checks or through customers signing up to be on the list, he said.

"People come from near and far," he said. "I think



The knitting department of Wilton's, where it made the material for its sports uniforms, which it sold all across the country.



Wilton's operating department when it made sports uniforms.

it being located in a former mill building and being a factory outlet concept has helped us."

He said even with having to be closed for three months during COVID-19 restrictions when non-essential businesses had to close, the store was doing well. "Twenty-five percent of my business was gone this year but because we're an old established company we were able to weather the storm," McLean said.

A long history

He has built on the company's long history, which



The cutting department at Wilton's when it made sports uniforms.



Wilton's finishing department when it manufactured sports uniforms.

started 129 years ago in 1891, and was previously in Amsterdam, New York and in Philadelphia, before it moved to Ware in 1954 and merged with Ware Knitters Company. It was a knitter of material used in athletic shirts and swimsuits before evolving into a children's clothing retail outlet in the 1980s.

It was started by John Maxwell and continued to be run by his son, Charles Maxwell, and his grandson, Charles Maxwell, before being bought by McLean in 1978.

Wilton's Children Store is now open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. It is closed on Mondays.

Public notices

Town of Wales Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission for RDA filed by Jeff Mueller for Tight Tank at 17 Shore Drive, Wales, MA.

This will be a VIRTUAL hearing on November 19, 2020. Email or call Wales ConCom for access location, conservation@townofwales.net; 413-245-7571 ext. 114. 11/05/2020

Wales Conservation Commission Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act, Chapter 131, Section 40, a Public Hearing will be held by the Wales Conservation Commission for RDA filed by William Venezia for replacement of catch basin at 31 Shore Drive, Wales, MA.

This will be a VIRTUAL hearing on November 19, 2020.

Email or call Wales ConCom for access location: conservation@townofwales.net 11/05/2020

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS LAND COURT DEPARTMENT OF THE TRIAL COURT (SEAL)

20 SM 001595
ORDER OF NOTICE
To: Diane L. Nelson and Glenn W. Nelson and to all persons entitled to the benefit of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C.

App. § 3901 et seq.:

Amos Financial LLC claiming to have an interest in a Mortgage covering real property in Palmer, numbered 150 Ware Street, given by Diane L. Nelson and Glenn W. Nelson to First Niagra Bank, N.A., dated June 6, 2011, and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds in Book 18800, Page 513, and now held by plaintiff by assignment, has filed with this court a complaint for determination of Defendant's Servicemembers status.

If you now are, or recently have been, in the active military service of the United States of America, then you may be entitled to the benefits of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. If you object to a foreclosure of the above-mentioned property on that basis, then you or your attorney must file a written appearance and answer in this court at Three Pemberton Square, Boston, MA 02108 on or before Nov. 30, 2020 or you may lose the opportunity to challenge the foreclosure on the ground of noncompliance with the Act.

Witness, GORDON H. PIPER Justice of this Court on Oct. 19, 2020
Attest:

Deborah J. Patterson
Recorder
11/05/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1850EA
Estate of:
Felicia A Corriveau

Date of Death: 04/12/2020 CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Christine M Croke of Holland, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Christine M Croke of Holland, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration. IMPORTANT NOTICE You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your

attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/25/2020.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court.

Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 23, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/05/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20A0070AD
In the matter of:
Kyleigh Rose

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Pietrzykowski CITATION G.L.c. 210, § 6

To: Frank Pietrzykowski any unnamed or unknown parent and persons interested in a petition for the adoption of said child and to the Department of Children and Families of said Commonwealth.

A petition has been presented to said court by: William Gene Grimaldi, III of Bondsville, MA; Kirsten R Pietrzykowski of Bondsville, MA requesting for leave to adopt said child and that the name of the child be changed to

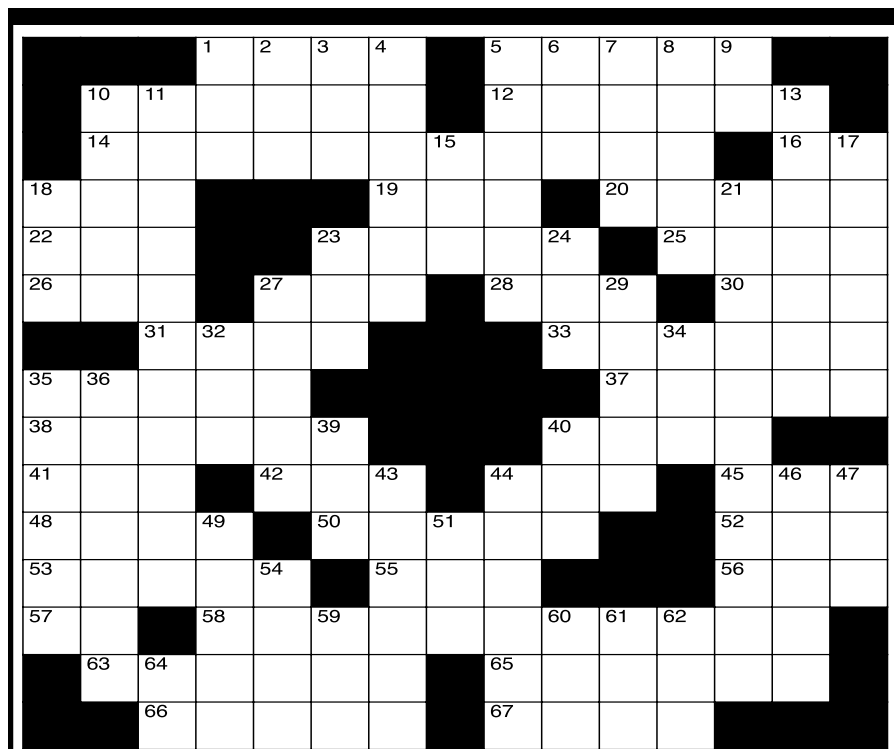
Kyleigh Rose Grimaldi If you object to this adoption you are entitled to the appointment of an attorney if you are an indigent person.

An indigent person is defined by SJC Rule 3:10. The definition includes but is not limited to persons receiving TAFDC, EACDC, poverty related veteran's benefits, Medicaid, and SSI. The Court will determine if you are indigent. Contact an Assistant Judicial Case Manager or Adoption Clerk of the Court on or before the date listed below to obtain the necessary forms.

IF YOU DESIRE TO OBJECT THERETO, YOU OR YOUR ATTORNEY MUST FILE A WRITTEN APPEARANCE IN SAID COURT AT: Springfield on or before ten o'clock in the morning (10:00 a.m.) on: 11/24/2020.

WITNESS, Hon. Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 06, 2020

Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
10/29, 11/05, 11/12/2020



CLUES ACROSS

1. Upright post on a boat
5. Sentimental person
10. Native American tribe
12. Wear away
14. Where you're going
16. Doctor
18. Popular Chinese dialect
19. One point east of due south
20. Northern sea duck
22. Note
23. Wives (law)
25. Trigonometric function
26. A way to communicate (abbr.)
27. Swiss river
28. No (Scottish)
30. Commercials
31. Large instrument
33. Chantilly, de Menthé
35. Small, saclike cavities

CLUES DOWN

37. High and thin in tone
38. Treat extremely well
40. Famed track star Usain
41. Secure web connection (abbr.)
42. Rob of energy
44. Paving material
45. Cool!
48. Tip of Aleutian Islands
50. Indicates silence
52. Water in the solid state
53. Security interests
55. Popular hooperster
56. Shed tears
57. Low frequency
58. Harmful bacterium
63. Common language: lingua
65. Standards of perfection
66. They consist of two parts
67. A detailed description of design

CLUES DOWN

1. More (Spanish)
2. A subdivision of a play
3. Japanese title
4. More jittery
5. Fabric
6. Luke's mentor
7. Cleaving tool
8. Ancient city of Egypt
9. 36 inches
10. Farewell
11. Second to last
13. Improved by critical editing
15. Defensive weapon (abbr.)
17. Fancy attire
18. Farrow, actress
21. Completely opposed
23. Supervises flying
24. Pouch
27. True first
29. Mistake

CLUES DOWN

32. Computing platform (abbr.)
34. Snake-like fish
35. Greatly horrify
36. Despicable person
39. Tell on
40. Ballplayer's tool
43. Central Brazilian town
44. Court game
46. Land
47. "The Partridge Family" actress Susan
49. Retract a statement
51. Data executive
54. Capital of Yemen
59. Portable computer screen material
60. Electronic data processing
61. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
62. Resinous substance
64. Rural delivery

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Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

COVID-19 testing at HCC extended

HOLYOKE — Free COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended until Jan. 15. HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since Aug. 26 to help the state and the City of Holyoke reduce the spread of COVID-19. After two previous extensions, testing was set to end on Oct. 31. It will now run through mid-January. Tests are being conducted outside HCC’s Bartley Center for Athletics and Recreation and administered by Fallon Ambulance in partnership with the Holyoke Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

Testing is available six days a week during the following hours:

Monday 7-11 a.m.
Tuesday 2-7 p.m.
Wednesday 7-11 a.m.
Thursday 2-7 p.m.
Friday 7-11 a.m.
Saturday 7-11 a.m.

Testing are conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments, and there is no cost for the tests and no referral is required.

Please enter campus from Homestead Avenue and follow the signs to M Lot (adjacent the Bartley Center), where in-car tests are being administered.

Turnaround time for test results is typically four days or fewer.

Crafting remotely

With craft fairs canceled, creators go online

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

REGION — In similar fashion to most every gathering, craft fairs across the state are being cancelled or postponed because of COVID-19. To prevent losses and ensure that all crafters are able to sell their products, a local woman has created a potential solution.

Donalyn Gross, of Longmeadow, created the Western Massachusetts Crafters Directory to link clients with the favorite crafters this summer and fall. The directory currently lists the contact information for more than 200 crafters and is steadily growing.

“Over the years, I collected everybody’s business cards and told them to send me a list of all the fairs they know. Now, I put them together, made a list and sent it out to everybody,” said Gross.

Crafters must pay an annual fee of \$10 to be added to the directory, and public access is entirely free. Gross, an avid craft fair participant for the past two decades, sells maple pecan and maple walnut syrup toppings and

typically attends a dozen craft fairs each autumn.

From September to December, traditional weekend craft fairs are prevalent all throughout the region. This fall, the tradition will likely be broken, but Gross is cautiously optimistic that her directory will make a difference.

“This year with the virus, I’m nervous about what will happen with the fall fairs. It’s our busy season,” she said. “What happens if there aren’t any fairs? We want people to be able to get a copy of this directory and say, ‘Oh, here’s that person that I’ve bought stuff from before, and here’s the contact information.’ They can contact the crafters directly.”

Gross noted that many crafters are small business owners and rely on the income gained during craft fairs each fall. She also pointed out that many of the products have already been created and are ready for sale.

“When you’re stuck in the house during the pandemic, what are you going to do? You’re going to make more stuff,” said Gross. “There are hundreds of people who do their Christmas shopping

and holiday shopping at these fairs. We all have tons and tons of merchandise. I have 14 cases of jars in my living room right now.”

Emphasizing that crafters do not want to lose their customers, Gross reiterated that items can be picked up as soon as tomorrow. In addition to the crafters’ contact information and locations, her directory lists product descriptions and times of availability.

“I want to get this out to the public as much as I can. I’m telling people, ‘Email me, and I will send it to you right away.’ For crafters who want to get on the list, email me, and I’ll give you the information,” she said.

While the directory is not yet online, Gross will be receptive to assistance in the endeavor. She admits that she is not a computer person but does realize the benefits of a potential website and will accept the help of someone willing to give it.

Gross can be contacted at HYPERLINK “mailto:Goodendings@hotmail.com” Goodendings@hotmail.com.

Governor requests people stay home at night, wear masks

By Eileen Kennedy
Staff writer

BOSTON — Effective this Friday, Gov. Charlie Baker announced residents are advised to stay home between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. in an effort to keep COVID-19 numbers in the state from rising, he said.

Also businesses such as restaurants, clubs and liquor stores as well as gyms and casinos across the state must close at 9:30 p.m. each night. Ware has sent notice to a number of businesses in town with alcoholic licenses including Teresa’s, Astronaut Pizza, Ware Package Store, Bruso’s, Wal-Mart, Brookside, Pete’s Package, Jane Alden, Asian Garden, Mexicali Grill, Niko’s Pizza, New United China, Rollaway Lanes, Hanna Devine’s, Wicked Wings Co. and Debbie Wong, telling them they must close by 9:30 p.m. Other Ware clubs have also been notified but they have not reopened from the original closings ordered by the state in March.

Baker’s also revised his order regarding masks, which now requires everyone to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain six feet of distance from others. The revised order still allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but it allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. It also allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition. Children 2 and under do not have to wear masks.

Baker is also asking people not to have gatherings in their homes with anybody outside of their household, and comply with all of Baker’s orders including requiring face coverings, limiting gatherings and mandating early closure of businesses.

He and the DPH are urging people to practice social distancing and avoid touching surfaces frequently touched by others if you go outside to get fresh air and to use remote modes of communication like phone or video chat instead of visiting friends or family.

COVID-19 case numbers in our state are rising and the commonwealth’s COVID-19 related hospitalizations and COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit census have more than doubled over the past two months. Social gatherings are contributing to these increases, he said.

Left unchecked, the current COVID-19 case growth poses a risk to the state’s healthcare system. Intervention is warranted to moderate case growth and preserve hospital capacity. It’s more important than ever to follow guidance from local, state, and federal officials on how to stop the spread of the virus, he said.



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